

Numerous imperial mansions tucked away in Beijing's back streets are ideal stepping-stones for a leisurely bicycle tour of the capital.

Page 16



Find out how a writing brush is made at Dai Yue Xuan.

Page 10



Want to know the secrets of a website flash-image maker? Meet Xiao Xiao.

Page 9

# BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY JANUARY 18, 2002

NO. 37

CN11-0120

HTTP://WWW.YNET.COM

## Business Institute Opens 'for Charity'

By Song Yi/Jiao Pei

The first private business institute in China will open on Changan Avenue in Wangfujing, according to the Chinese newspaper *21st Century Economic News Report*.

Global mogul Li Ka-shing is founding the Cheung Kong Business Institute in Oriental Plaza as a charity using his own personal registered capital.

As a private donation, Li avoids certain government policy restrictions on educational institutions. State policy stipulates a private school must not be profit-oriented and that the foreign ownership percentage should not exceed 49%.

The institute hopes to occupy a segment of the future Master's of Business Administration (MBA) market but will not seek profits for 10 years, said future principal Xiang Bing.

In a statement reported by people.com, the Li Ka-shing Foundation statement denied seeking to profit from the institute:

"In the long run, the Li Ka-shing Foundation has donated money to education and medical treatment in order to contribute to the development of social public welfare.

"We will simply invest, not to get our money back, let alone seek profits. As for the Cheung Kong Business Institute, we will say more after preparations are completed."

A Ministry of Education spokesman said no statement would be released until the situation was clearer and that "the current wild speculation will only harm Li Ka-shing's image". It would take about half a month to make it clear, he said.

The institute will enroll its first 150 students this September, said Xiang. Seventy professors of the top ten world business schools would be invited to serve as long-term professors. Tuition will be 240,000 yuan a year, the most expensive in China, a quarter that of Harvard.

The Li Ka-shing Foundation was established in 1980, and has donated HK\$450 million to public welfare on the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong over 20 years.

## A Swede Writes...

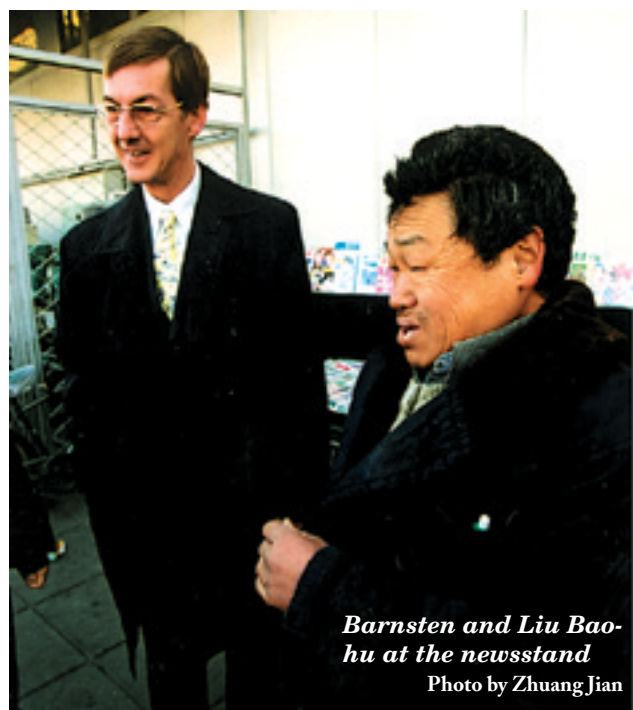
By Shan Jinliang

*Beijing Today* ran a reader's questionnaire in its year-end edition, and a number of letters containing answers flew back to the newsroom these last two weeks.

A few e-mail answers surprised us. Here is one from Claes Barnsten, a traveler from Sweden:

*You are producing a very good newspaper. I always look forward to Friday when I approach our local supermarket with my warm 1-yuan bill in my pocket, and as I approach, the newsstand man, an elderly, a little bit crippled man, shines up and takes out the Beijing Today. I hand over my warm 1 yuan bill that I have prepared and held in my pocket since I left home and in return I get a new cold edition of Beijing Today. We exchange a couple of words even though we don't understand each other. This is a routine that, even if I had a free subscription to your newspaper, would not change. I would feel like I was betraying my friend at the newsstand if I passed him without buying the newspaper every Friday.*

*Thank you and have a happy and successful 2002. You are worth it.*



Barnsten and Liu Bao-hu at the newsstand

Photo by Zhuang Jian

### Vacancy

*Beijing Today* seeks a polisher who is a native speaker of English. A person with journalism experience will have the advantage in filling the vacancy.

Please send your resume and certificates of education to: Beijing Today, 23, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100026.

E-mail: lf@bqb.com.cn

## Xiao's Five Minutes

Migrant worker speaks up for silent millions



Two migrant workers watch State Economic and Trade Commission official Hu Ke at the live hearing on the big screen at Beijing Railway Station.

Photo by Lily

By Xiao Rong

When it was all said and finished, he returned directly to his hotel room, no. 803. En route, he spoke to nobody.

Xiao Xiaosong laid his head down on the clean pillow of his clean Railway Hotel bed and chain-smoked four Zhongnanhai cigarettes.

"I just felt so full of regret," he said. Critical of himself for failing to articulate his ideas at the hearing, Xiao, a migrant worker, acknowledged it had been his privilege to attend.

The migrant workforce in China's cities is estimated at 100m — although no one knows for sure. In Beijing, migrant workers have been said to number more than 3 million, about a fifth of the city's 13.8 m-strong population.

The Chinese Consumer's Association picked Xiao as one of 12 national delegates to speak at China's first televised public price hearing on passenger train tickets on Saturday.

"I attended the bus fare hearing of Guangdong Province last December and performed well," said Xiao.

"Maybe that's why Guangdong Consumer's Association again suggested my application for the railway price hearing," Xiao told *Beijing Today*.

**Youngest representative**

Born in Hubei, Xiao, 24, works at Foshan Lighting Electric Appliances in Guangdong. He was the youngest delegate.

"But I had the advantage of attending a similar hearing before," said Xiao. "Last time my speech was persuasive because of the survey I made. This time I tried using the same method."

Xiao spent a week conducting a survey among his fellow workers at the company. There are more than 8,000 employees in Xiao's company, over 90 percent of whom are migrant workers, according to Xiao.



Xiao Xiaosong

Photo by Lily

"As a migrant worker myself, I just try to collect as many opinions as possible of my brothers about the increase in train fares at spring festival.

"Of the more than 300 migrant workers I investigated, half didn't agree with the price hike by the Ministry of Railways," said Xiao.

Asked about the 153-page technical document handed to him by the Ministry 10 days before the hearing, Xiao said he didn't understand it.

"Actually the document was too professional and too long for me to understand. Moreover, I didn't have enough time to finish it before the hearing."

The document, said Xiao, offered reasons for the fare hike by explaining operational costs and offering a cost-benefit analysis, quite beyond him to confirm.

"My task as the delegate for migrant workers should be to voice emotionally the opinions of those whom I represent. For expert delegates, however, professional analysis of the document is necessary and they are able to express their ideas from a macroscopic perspective," said Xiao.

Instead Xiao concentrated on making the most of the five minutes he had been allotted to speak at the hearing in the Railway Hotel, Beijing.

"My speech included two parts. One was the main point of view. Another was examples I collected to support my views."

But Xiao failed to finish up his statement inside the five minutes, although he had practiced many times before the hearing and stayed up late the night before.

For the printed version of his speech, Xiao had prepared different typefaces and colors to differentiate views and examples.

"I was still a little bit nervous on the spot and the shining camera lights of CCTV made my eyes water," said Xiao. "It was a rare chance for me to be able to come to Beijing to have my say on behalf of my fellow workers on this special occasion."

"But I didn't do well."

**Good news for humble man**

In a Xinhua news story about the hearing, two migrant workers who had watched the CCTV broadcast on the giant screen outside Beijing Railway Station, were interviewed. They said the delegates had performed excellently by speaking out their true thoughts. They singled out Xiao Xiaosong for most praise.

When a *Beijing Today* reporter told him about this, Xiao smiled.

"It is my joy to speak for migrant workers."

"For they really form the bulk of railway passengers. Poor as they are, they still have to return home each spring festival for the family reunion, which may use up a large proportion of their annual income."

(Continued on page 2)

## Hearing Sparks Debate

By Xiao Rong

Nobody stopped talking this week. China's first public national hearing on train fares garnered nationwide interest.

The hearing on Saturday in the Railway Hotel, Beijing, sought public opinions about the introduction of a government-guided flexible pricing system. China's Central Television (CCTV) gave live coverage of the latter half of the six-hour hearing.

The guidelines were debated and contested by 33 formal delegates, 12 from the general public, of whom three were migrant workers.

The Ministry of Railways presented a 153-page document justifying the changed fares as an attempt to balance traffic between the peak and off season, as well as operational costs.

Most delegates agreed in principle with the new guidelines, but emphasized the need for improvement of management and service on the part of the ministry.

The State Development and Planning Commission (SDPC), sponsor of the hearing, is due to revise train fares after the hearing and hand them to the State Council for examination and approval.

"This type of hearing is quite new," said Philippe Rochot, a correspondent from French No.2 Television. "Although it differs from the French form, they have the same purpose — involving people in the decision-making process of government. The hearing demonstrates fairness and democracy in China."

The 1998 Price Law of China marked the introduction of a price hearing system in the country, but did not detail hearing procedures.

That situation improved when a provisional regulation was issued on public hearings for governmental price-setting on August 1, 2001.

The Commission published a new price hearing list in October last year, stipulating that a price hearing is required for the formulation of electricity fees, telecom charges, train and plane fares.

The number of passengers at Beijing West Railway Station averaged 153,000 each day after the hearing, up 7,000 over the regular attendance. The flow of migrant workers also increased. "Fares will rise sooner or later after the hearing, so why not return home before peaktime?" said one migrant worker from Sichuan province.

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Under the auspices of the Information Office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Chen Xing ■ Editor in Chief: Zhang Yanping ■ Executive Deputy Editor in Chief: He Pingping ■ Director of the Editorial Department: Liu Feng ■ Price: 2 yuan per issue ■ 26 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No.23, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010) 6590-2525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com ■ Hotline for subscription with Red Cap Company: (010) 6641-6666 ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation



# Eight Overseas Businesses Likely to Gain Joint Venture Status

By Zhang Dongping / Shan Jinliang

Eight foreign companies, including Carrefour, Sci-tech, IKEA and Parkson are likely to be entitled with official joint venture status once they get government approval.

Beijing opened its retail business to foreign capital in 1992, and more than 20 stores from 15 large enterprises with a total foreign investment of 320 million yuan have been opened over the past decade. 7 of the 15 enterprises including Lufthansa, New Dong'an and Ito Yokado established joint ventures with Chinese partners, while the other 8 entered the

Beijing market by establishing commercial management enterprises or invested through other channels.

The State Council issued a notice to rectify and reform illegally established foreign enterprises, thus giving order to the market and creating a fair market environment for foreign enterprises, said an official from the State Economic and Trade Commission. No foreign-funded enterprises will be allowed to develop in Beijing if they do not reform appropriately. With 27 stores in 15 cities, Carrefour is unable to undertake its expansion plan due to such problems.

Reform covers the applying process, the

proportion of share and capital of Chinese and foreign sides and business operation, said Wang Lihua, an official from Beijing Commercial Commission.

A couple of processes and two weeks have to pass before a foreign-funded enterprise can run in the Beijing market, said Wang. First, the enterprise has to file an application to the Beijing Commercial Commission, and then it has to be checked and approved by the State Economic and Trade Commission. The final stage involves the approval and signing of agreements by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.



The IKEA went to Beijing in 1998  
Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Handing over the Winter Fire



Chinese contestants passed the Winter Olympic torch in Los Angeles on January 16, Beijing Time. Chinese torch holders were jointly selected by the China Olympic Committee and Coca Cola Enterprises to join in passing torch for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. The Olympic Badminton Champion, Gong Zhichao, is passing the fire.

Photo by Qi Heng

## Railway Price Hearing Awaits Improvement

By Cui Li / Xiao Rong

Among the 12 consumer delegates for the first ever central government-sponsored hearing on prices of passenger train tickets last Saturday, three turned out to be migrant workers.

"The Ministry of Railways will have to bargain with the migrant workers on the price rise of passenger tickets. From this perspective, praise for the price hearing can never be too excessive," said Ma Huaide, professor from China University of Politics and Law.

As the guest of CCTV's live broadcast of the hearing, Ma went beyond praise to outline four areas that are awaiting improvement.

### No lawyer delegates?

There should be lawyers in the hearing, according to Ma, yet it's a pity no lawyer has been selected.

"It's not necessary for consumer delegates to attend the hearing, instead they can trust the affairs to lawyers or professionals. The Ministry of Railways or railway operators can also invite lawyers that are familiar with the railway managing businesses," said Ma.

Ma said that the parties concerned have the right to hire a lawyer, which is stipulated in the hearing systems of foreign countries. "But the hearing this time had no such requirements."

### No student delegates?

Due to a tight schedule, the 12 consumer delegates were chosen from over 600 applicants nationwide with the help of the local consumer's association.

"It's a pity that there are no student delegates, since students form a major group of railway pas-

sengers," Ma pointed out.

Information regarding the time, place and topic of such similar hearings should be publicized in advance to guarantee comprehensive discussions between parties concerned, said Ma.

"A just procedure needs to be emphasized so that those who can truly represent the vast consumers can be selected for the hearing," Ma said.

### Professional host required

The host of the railway ticket price hearing is the director of the Price Department of the State Development and Planning Commission (SDPC). Ma said an official could be an excellent host for professional subjects, but that he may not fully understand legal matters.

"An administrative law judge system should be introduced in China to guarantee the independence and fairness of the hearing procedure," Ma suggested. "In the U.S., the main responsibility of an administrative law judge is to sponsor hearings in administrative departments, a practice from which China can learn. We can establish similar posts for judges to preside over hearings in the Ministry of Personnel."

### Duplicate to be saved

Every delegate has the right to acquire a duplicate of the hearing summary as well as consult the hearing documents, according to Ma.

"Although delegates have signed their names on the hearing summary, there was no specific requirement for the delegates to get duplicates of the summary," he said.

## Xiao's Five Minutes of National Fame

(Continued from page 1)

Xiao himself spent nearly 4,000 yuan last year on the traditional holiday reunion. His annual income is a little over 10,000 yuan.

"To a certain extent, I do agree with the state's plan to regulate the number of passengers by raising train fares. But the interests of low-paid migrant workers should also be considered so as to try to reduce their burden."

For his first trip to Beijing, Xiao borrowed more than 2,000 yuan. The State Development and Planning Commission provided accommodation expenses for all the delegates.

"Even if I had to pay for it all myself, I would still try to come here. It's worth it if I can save money for all the migrant workers of China at my expense," said Xiao.

Of his first visit to the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs on the day after the hearing, Xiao said it all felt like a dream.

"It's unbelievable for me to be a national delegate and communicate with the government."

It was also the first time for Xiao, one of China's millions of migrant workers whose only transport choices are buses or trains, to travel by plane to attend the hearing.

"I'm lucky this time, but if there were a price hearing on air fares next time, I would not apply because I don't have much idea about planes."

"The chance should go to those who can really speak for the interests of routine airplane passengers," said Xiao.

## Olympic Venues Plan Witnesses Full Startup

By Shan Jinliang

The Olympic venues construction plan has been fully launched with Olympics Green and Wukesong Sports Center as the key sites, says Beijing Municipal Planning Committee.

The preliminary document regarding venue planning will be completed and tendered to the world by this July, which is to ensure the kick off of venue construction from the second half of 2003, says the committee.

It is also learnt from the Olympics Organizing Committee that the construction of the

venues will be undertaken in the following steps: venue construction location and the establishment of a fair tendering system will be completed by June 2002; the tendering of venue property owners and the venue construction plans will be finished before the second half of 2003, including all the preparatory work, such as land flattening and environmental evaluation; construction of the venues will start and the business plans will be outlined from the second half of 2003 to be completed by the end of 2006.

## China GDS under Construction

By Jiao Pei

The China Global Distribution System (GDS) has recently completed preliminary stages of planning for the system to be established in China. Two further stages will be undertaken to complete the project in 2003.

GDS is essential for airlines and the travel industry at large in China to face international competition. The State Planning Commission passed the decision to construct China GDS at the end of 1999. TravelSky Technology Limited is undertaking the project that will have three stages: system construction, system improvement and system promotion.

GDS is a service system that manages the whole aviation and travel industry, including ticket reservation, hotel reservation,

car rental and other related trades. China GDS is based on the country's original Computer Reservation System (CRS), which already enables customers to make reservations around the world. The GDS system currently under construction covers more fields right across the travel industry.

GDS offers integrated management of ticket reservations of over 20 Chinese airlines, including several thousand travel agencies. China GDS will make some improvements in regard to the Chinese market. The E-ticket will be increasingly widespread due to the construction of GDS. It has been used on some air routes on Shenzhen and Shanghai airlines, which will reduce the production and management cost by 30-40 yuan per ticket.

## China WTO Inquiry Center Open for Business

By Xiao Rong

WTO members, Chinese and foreign enterprises or individuals can now consult the China WTO Notification and Enquiry Center since Monday.

The center, which belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC), aims to answer WTO-related questions.

All the information concerning legal provision and measures concerning commodity trade, service trade, intellectual property, and foreign exchange control can be consulted at the center.

Enquiries will be answered in writing within one month of receiving the enquiry application form, with the maximum limit of 45 days.

Enquiry application forms can be downloaded at [www.moftec.gov.cn](http://www.moftec.gov.cn) or obtained by faxing 86-10-65197340. Both fax and mail can be used to submit enquiries to the China WTO Notification and Enquiry Center of MOFTEC.

## Zhongguancun Offers Free Services to Gain More Investment

By Wang Dandan

Changping Sector of Zhongguancun Science Park launches nearly two million yuan each year to offer free services to enterprises in the park.

"While we provide a start-to-finish service for companies wishing to set up in the park, we also pay attention to the service concept," said Su Guiguang, vice-director of the Administrative Committee of Zhongguancun Science Park Changping.

The start-to-finish free service started last year and all companies in the park enjoy free service in terms of registration, procedure of leaving and entering China, and relevant documentation with Beijing Municipal Governmental Offices. Fax, printing machines, Internet surfing, IDD and IDD call are also free in the business center, Su added.

The above-mentioned services cost nearly two million yuan, excluding human resource costs. However, these are minor investments compared with the attraction of more companies to invest in the park, Su explained.

Up to now, over 700 companies have registered in the park. 95 companies enlisted with the registration fund of over ten million yuan. Among these companies, 676 are engaged in the hi-tech industry.

One of the companies, Beijing Bao Shu Tang Chinese Herbal Medicine, told reporters that the reason they chose the Changping Sector to register is due to its efficiency. "We had planned to spend one year on registering the company, however, we completed the procedure with their help within just three months," said Zhu Baohai, manager of the Public Relations Department of the company.

Some companies suggest that the park should offer more in-depth services such as a stronger incubator function. Jin Lei, director of Beijing Balance Bio-Engineering, told the reporter that his company has plenty of ideas and talent but lacks in capital. "It would be better if we could secure more loans with the help of the park," Jin said.

## BAOP Promises to Increase Service Consciousness

By Yang Xiao

Beijing Association of Port-of-entry (BAOP) opened the second delegate meeting last Thursday. BAOP is a cross-field public corporation. It is an important window of Beijing to the outside. Delegates elected the new management team at the meeting. The newly elected Chairman Wu Yifu said that BAOP would increase service consciousness and do more research to cope with the demand.



## Chinese VISA Card is Born

By Xu Ying

The People's Bank of China (PBC) has been pushing a new kind of credit card from January 10 named Yinlian Card, which functions like a VISA or MasterCard. Almost every bank that has released credit cards in China will offer the new Yinlian Card.

In China different banks release different cards, which are restricted to one bank only. The inconvenience results in people carrying an army of cards in their pockets. The conformity by the central bank will offer the convenience of using one card to draw money from any bank's ATM.

So far China's banks have already released 300 million cards. Cards used for consumption amount to a mere 3% of total consumption however, as many people frequently use cash while traveling and doing business. The Yinlian Card will turn around the current situation. Analysts also believe the promotion of the Yinlian Card by the PBC is a defense tactic after China's entry to WTO.

## Motorola Launches V70 Handset

By Yang Xiao

Motorola once again proved itself as a world leader in designing cool and trendy handsets when it launched the new visual-impact V70 mobile phone in China last Friday.

The unique style of the V70 mobile phone offers a convincing commentary to the slogan "The world looks different because of me", which currently prevails in the fashion community. Its tiny body and shiny chrome jacket with elegant curves are seductively appealing to consumers. In particular, the V70 distinguishes itself from others with a rotating mechanism that can turn 360 degrees, allowing users to enjoy the full range of its special features.

Motorola has constantly led the world mobile phone sector by rolling out a series of graceful and elegant products, which range from V998, V8088 to V60/V66. Now, the company has once again set up a new icon in the field through the launch of the V70 model.

## Ascott Moves to Beijing

By Yang Xiao

Ascott, one of the World's biggest apartment providers announced last Thursday that it had moved its headquarters from Shanghai to Beijing. Ascott is joining hands with Beijing foreign investment service center to form a new joint venture to manage Beijing business. Ascott revealed that it would focus on developing office buildings and luxurious apartments in two or three years in Beijing.

Ascott is the arm of Singapore state-owned company Capitaland Group. The group has \$15 billion total assets. It has invested six billion yuan in China.

# Supermarket Bankruptcy Leads to Riot

Faced with no other option, wholesalers grab what they can from bankrupt supermarket

By Yang Xiao

While large joint venture or state-owned supermarkets are gradually eating up Beijing's retail market, a lot of small or private-owned supermarkets have to face going broke.

Red Bear Chain Store is one of the victims. On January 9 the boss Hu Qixin disappeared, resulting in a horde of wholesalers gathering at his several chain stores around Beijing to fight for their interests. They were left with no option but to grab goods from the stores. Only a few wholesalers snatched goods; others seemed resigned to their fate.

The "luckiest" wholesaler incurred a loss of about 7,000 yuan, while the most wretched victim lost more than 500,000 yuan. Reports estimated that Hu Qixin owes a total of 20 million yuan to his providers.

At last the police appeared and put a stop to the wholesalers' extreme action. But the influence goes beyond one single incident. The following day another medium sized supermarket named Hong De Yi discovered problems of its own.

### Capital link breaks

Wang Chuan, one of the wholesalers to Red Bear Chain Store told Beijing Today on Monday that he had possibly lost about 100,000 yuan. "I didn't grab anything. When I realized, the other wholesalers had already taken everything away. This is my third customer whose boss ran away. And there are several other supermarkets that still owe me money."

Wang explained that a lack of credit blocks normal business activities. Usually the business deals in cash or else the wholesalers receive a check after providing goods to the supermarkets. But some loss-incurring supermarkets claimed they have no money in their account currently and give the wholesalers post-dated checks instead. Wang received a check that had been post-dated two months, which in the end could not be honored since Red Bear's account had almost dried up.

"Red Bear's bankruptcy may possibly lead to other wholesalers' bankruptcy. The capital link breaks," Wang analyzed. "Before bankruptcy we have to wait and continue to provide goods hoping that next month the client has working capital."

"The market is totally disordered." Last month Wang employed a gang leader to retrieve his money. "The boss of that su-



The next day Hong De Yi Supermarket also suffered looting. The chain reaction begins from Red Bear Chain store

Photo by Chen Shuyi

permarket provided me with a bad check too. He wanted to change his supermarket name to avoid debt. I had to fall back on the gang. It's the most efficient way," Said Wang.

### Reluctant duper

Insider Yang Yang estimates that apart from employees' salaries, real estate rent and residual goods, boss Hu Qixin could only make about one or two million yuan instead of the owed 20 million yuan. "At least he tried to make a fortune from normal means at the very beginning," said Yang.

The medium and small sized supermarkets lack competitive advantages. They can only get a 5% discount while the large chain stores get a 10-15% discount. They have to increase the price of their goods to break even. But higher prices will cer-

tainly drive customers away. The vicious circle begins. "Hu is the example. His running capital has quickly been used up. But he doesn't want to declare bankruptcy. He has the power to tie up wholesalers' capital. The easiest way is to tie up the goods and delay the date of returning the money," Yang analyzes, "Once a wholesaler's capital has been used up, he has no option but to run away. If not, wholesalers would sue him and a judge would sentence him to prison."

One or two million yuan will keep Hu afloat in the short-term. And the wholesaler will consider the loss as one of the risks in business, but similar things happen day in and day out. So what can be done to protect the interest of wholesalers? And what can we do to regulate the disordered market?

### Set up a guild

The retail market is a typical buyer's market. If one wholesaler stops providing goods because of money problems, the supermarket can easily find a substitute to provide the same goods, and continuously refuse to pay the debt. If all the wholesalers combine forces and promise to stop providing goods, and then jointly sue the supermarket, 'Red Bear accidents' will be avoided.

"The wholesalers have independent interests. I know one wholesaler who is Hu's close friend. He got his money back and does not care for other partners. To form a guild is a good thing, but it will hardly be realized by wholesalers' power alone," said Wang, "I think we must depend on the government to take the lead in setting up a semi-official guild."

# Xiali Raises Price War Curtain

By Jiang Zhong

The price of Xiali 2000, the flagship product of the Tianjin auto manufacturer, dropped from 119,800 yuan to 97,000 yuan on January 12. Other Xiali products also saw similar drops in price.

This was Xiali's second price reduction since last June. Now its 3-cylinder hatchback has hit the bottom of the Chinese auto market priced at 38,000 yuan (\$4,500). However, this was not the lowest price of its line. Geely, another car manufacturer from Zhejiang Province, sold its product of the same category at nearly one thousand yuan less.

### Price fall boosts car market. Will it last?

The sudden drop in price created a boost in demand for Xiali cars. Domestic sales of Xiali cars on January 12 amounted to 561 units, ten times that of the average daily sales before this date. Besides, 636 cars were ordered on the same day, resulting in most auto dealers running out of Xiali cars.

Jealous of Xiali's temporary success, its competitors have followed suit.

Ma Yu, economist at the Foreign Economics and Trade Study Institution, pointed out that the price reduction was inevitable after China's WTO entry. Many domestic auto manufacturers supported the idea among themselves that a drop in price would not occur within the first three to five years after China's WTO entry, that it was a trick played by the manufacturers who allied with each other on the basis of a severely deformed pricing system. This alliance was so fragile that it could not take any challenge from within or without, which could explain why the price fall came so quickly.

Ma added that when the WTO commitments of the Chinese auto industry were fulfilled, foreign cars would

pour in at relatively low prices, and that Chinese customers would make cost effective decisions by shutting Chinese cars out of the picture. So some Chinese manufacturers are trying to sell out their stock as soon as possible. A few manufacturers raking in huge profits do not represent the health of the whole market, and will prove to be a short-term phenomenon.

Kuang Zhao ming, director of the Tianjin Automobile Manufacturing Group Market Information Study Department, said that the whole auto market experienced a depression in the second half of 2001. As the best selling brand, Xiali intended to activate the auto market through its price reduction. The group also wanted to enhance its leading position in the Chinese car market through its New Year strategy, and the price fall is the first step in that strategy.

### Will luxury cars follow suit?

Some luxury brands have followed suit. Hongqi, the oldest domestic brand, cut 30,000 yuan off each product of its line. Sun Baolin, marketing manager of China FAW Group Corporation, said that the imported luxury cars would see the largest price fall after China's WTO entry, but that Chinese manufacturers would take no price advantage over the imported cars. It was wise for them to lower the production cost, and consequently the final car prices.

As to the problem of production costs, Ma said, for a modern manufacturer production costs should be kept as low as possible. However the effect of the cost has been exaggerated by Chinese auto manufacturers for many years. Furthermore, profit margins of Chinese auto products have been too high, and most Chinese auto manufacturers have profited too much with price barriers constructed by the government against foreign cars.

### Barriers will be broken; fierce battles will be encountered

Qian Pingfan, senior economist at the Industry Economy Research Department of the State Council Development Research Center, pointed out that Chinese auto manufacturers should prepare for fierce competition with foreign giants in an open market.

For the luxury car market, competition would break out among foreign brands, forcing Chinese auto manufacturers out of this market. For other categories of cars, Korean and Japanese competitors will stir up the market. Chinese auto manufacturers will experience fierce competition, and only high quality and reasonable prices will decide whether a Chinese enterprise can weather the storm or not.



# Merger Tears

Chinese well known soft drink company Jianlibo signed agreement with Zhejiang National Capital Investment Co. for the transfer of 80% of Jilibo state-owned shares. The 360 million yuan contract nearly moved the founder and president Li Jingwei to tears at the conference.

He seemed to be recalling glorious past times.



People look forward to further discounts

Photo by Wang Zhenlong



# CSRC warns: tell the public what you have to tell FIEs Closer to Domestic IPOs

By Li Peng/Zhao Hongyi

Foreign invested enterprises (FIEs) now have a much clearer road ahead to issuing initial public offerings (IPOs) in China's cash fueled stock market. At the same time however, they have to take more legal responsibilities to assure their business operational transparency and secure less risk on the country's stock markets.

China Security Regulatory Commission (CSRC), supervisor of the country's stock market, issued a draft listing business details that a FIE has to unveil in its IPO preparatory documents. CSRC publicized the notice for public comment.

The notice issued underlines that aside

from the regulations required before a public listing in the country, an FIE has in addition to clearly list all possible risks in its business operation, such as listing names of raw material suppliers from outside China, customers and technical services it relies on.

They have to list possible risks incurred by the cancellation of preferential taxation status they used to enjoy before China's entry to the WTO, and by possible policy changes regarding to technical transfer to China of the countries and regions where foreign shareholders reside, as well as policies regarding investment.

On the condition that the cash collected through IPO will be used in foreign coun-

tries, candidate FIEs should disclose the detailed implementing agenda of the project proposed, operational and management models to adopt, and the policies regarding investment by enterprises from China of the country where the project is to be located.

Enterprises and companies located in China have long waited for possible IPOs in the country, on both the A-share market traded in Renminbi and the B-share market traded in US dollars. Arguments and studies in this direction have been underway for a number of years. Those enterprises queuing up for listing with CSRC include Unilever and Morgan Stanley.

CSRC publicized several preconditions

for any FIE wanting to be listed earlier last year. The latest step taken by CSRC last week is another step in this direction. CSRC aims at further restricting possible speculation n IPOs and guarantee the credits of candidate FIEs to secure the domestic volatile stock markets which has been severely damaged by a number of financial auditing scandals last year.

The notice added that all requirements are also binding to candidate enterprises and companies with investment from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

CSRC states that all comments and suggestions should be sent to the commission prior to January 20.



City metro stations are under construction, needing huge amounts of materials and logistics

Photo by Chen Shuyi

## Light Metro Provides Business

By Zhao Hongyi

After four years of construction, the western part of the Beijing light metro line is close to completion. Meanwhile, decoration of the stations and infrastructure facilities along the lines require more inputs from overseas companies.

Starting from Xizhimen and ending at Huilongguan, the western part of the city's light metro has nine stations and is scheduled to begin operation on a trial basis from the third quarter of this year. Equipment and components are urgently needed in large quantities.

Remaining work on the western line includes the decoration of the total nine stops along the line, as well as electric supplying system, telecommunication facilities, signal system and pollutants disposal infrastructure.

City Rail Construction Corporation, the contractor for the construction told the reporter that it has purchased 28 kilometers' length of sound-absorbing barriers to be used along the lines from a French company, telecommunications equipment from Motorola, metro car electric engines, air conditioners and automatic ticket systems including machines and barriers from Japan. The metro carriages will be manufactured domestically.

## MINT Finds Gold at Zhongguncun Fair

By Shan Jinliang

MINT, Mobile Internet (Asia) Limited, an early investor in China's wireless sector, is in the process of investigating an investment in a technology which bridges CDMA and GSM networks.

The technology, called CDMA-GSM Bridging Technology has been developed by a company introduced to MINT at the 3rd Zhongguncun Business Promotion and Technology Fair held last Thursday and Friday. It has advanced features when compared to existing technology in the market and the connection of GPRS and GSM will bring about significant market implications, said Mr. Kirkwood, a founding partner with MINT. The market potential of this technology is huge as mobile subscriber growth in China is growing by four million users per month and these are the two dominant technologies.

He predicts MINT will invest in a bridging technology in one or two months after dealing with legal and accounting issues as well as the viability of technology compatibility with telecom interfaces in China.

Many Chinese wireless companies have world-class technologies but lack a solid business model, and "need to commercialize their business model," said Mr. Kirkwood. MINT is able to provide the capital and a process that focuses on commercialization of a wireless business model while ensuring the management team is not burdened by bureaucracy.

Mr. Kirkwood prefers to attend fairs of more specific areas such as the wireless, bio-technology and software/hardware ones, and he thinks it would be better to provide more private rooms for discussion.



The State of Utah-China Trade Representative Office promotes the 2002 Winter Olympics to be held next month in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.

Photos by Zhuang Jian

# Foreign Local Governments Set Up Windows in Beijing

More exchanges have seen cultural, scientific and new concept communications

By Zhao Hongyi

Embassies are not the only channels for peoples to communicate with each other today. More and more foreign sub-political or commercial entities like provinces, cities and chambers are coming to Beijing and presenting their wares to the fast-growing Chinese economy. The Alberta China Office from Canada and State of Utah-China Trade Representative Office from the United States, are two such examples.

Established in 1999, the Alberta China Office put trade promotion at the top of its agenda, according to David W. H. Wong, managing director of the office.

"We are also involved in economic relations development, facilitating Canadian companies to invest in China and Chinese companies to Alberta and Canada," said Mr. Wong.

"Other fields include educational and cultural exchanges, trade and economic cooperation, policy dialog, science and technology cooperation (particularly in environment science) and immigration affairs.

"The reasons why Alberta set up this office here include China's huge economic growth potentiality and Heilongjiang's sister province relationship with Alberta," Wong explained.

In the State of Utah-China Trade Representative Office, Shawn Hu,



David W. H. Wong, managing director of Alberta China Office, is kept busy with his trade promotion and cultural exchanges between China and Canada

trade representative, gave us a more comprehensive picture of their programs in Beijing and China.

"The winning of hosting the 2002 Winter Olympics by Salt Lake city, which is in Utah, reminded the state of presenting ourselves more aggressively and directly to the world, in

other words, internationalizing our local economy. This is the basic factor leading to the establishment of the office in Beijing. Of course, China's rapidly growing economy is another factor," said Mr. Hu.

"We try to create a friendly environment and conditions here for companies from Utah, in the hi-tech software industry, bio-engineering industry, and pharmaceutical industry, to explore their business.

"But we also enhance cooperation and exchanges between our two peoples in Olympics organization experience, family links, policy and regulation introduction.

"In general, being a part of the state government, we play a local government function to industries and people, not only trade promotion. We are promoting the brand of Utah here (in China), from the aspects of economy, trade, culture, language, policy, ideas, experiences," Mr. Hu explained.

The office also helps Chinese companies and investors to do business and make investment in Utah, and sends Chinese to receive language, science and technology training, promote new concepts in China, like business ethics.

"We co-hosted a seminar on the topic of business ethics last year in Beijing, and we'll continue to do that this year," Hu said.

# Koreans Seek Chinese Soccer Tourists

By Zhao Hongyi

With the "2002 FIFA World Cup" soccer games to be held in June in South Korea and Japan, the Koreans are stepping up their efforts to attract Chinese tourists and football fans to their country. The Korean National Tourism Organization (KNTO) is preparing to set up a football service center in Beijing within days to assist Chinese in finding accommodation, purchasing air tickets and arranging visas.

On the first round of lot drawing, China's football team, which has won a ticket to the 2002 World Cup games,

will play its first three matches (against Costa Rica on June 4, Brazil on June 8, and Turkey on June 13) in South Korea.

This news has set Korean business antennae buzzing at the idea of an influx of Chinese fans.

The Korean Development Institute, the country's top economic study and research institute, estimates that more than 100,000 Chinese tourists will stay in South Korea during the World Cup session. Total expenditures by Chinese fans and tourists will reach 70 billion South Korea won (a little over \$53 million).



Choi Jae Geun, chief representative of KNTO in Beijing, promised to offer service

Photo by Zhang Hongjiang

# Microsoft Textbooks Enter Chinese Classrooms

By Shan Jinliang

For the first time in history, Microsoft, a foreign enterprise, will compile textbooks for Chinese primary and junior and senior students, said the software giant on January 9.

Microsoft, jointly with Xinhua General Store and Liaoning Publishing Group is scheduled to write a set of textbooks entitled "After-school Computer", due to come into print over this winter holiday.

At the end of last year, senior schools and juniors in big and medium cities across the country started running IT classes, while some primary schools also joined in. The Ministry of Education said all junior and primary schools in economically advanced areas are to start running IT classes, and that at least 90 % of the schools would have access to IT classes. Analysts comment it could account for the importance Microsoft attached to Chinese education market.

At the same time, China's IT textbooks are not practical and systemic. More than 100 kinds of IT textbooks can be seen on the market, most of which are too professional. Other publications however, so called popular IT, can be read by students from seven years old to senior schools," said Wang Xiaowu, deputy director of the Elementary Lessons Textbook Development Center under the Ministry of Education.

Microsoft proclaims that "After-school Computer" will be the best IT textbook for Chinese primary and middle school students as it complements Chinese and US education.

Microsoft subsequently declared it would join hands with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security in carrying out the National Professional Qualification IT Double Authentication Test. Such a giant step by Microsoft is considered as a signal to target China's IT personnel training market by China Youth Daily. Analysts say it is part of Microsoft's long-term strategy to conquer China's IT personnel training market. Others think it is a strategic adjustment after the company failed to win a contract from the Beijing municipal government to supply desktop software not long ago.

# Domestic and Foreign Banks to Adopt Win-Win Strategy

By Wang Xu/Zhao Hongyi

Chinese banks and foreign financial institutions are facing an unprecedented opportunity to cooperate after China's entry to WTO. Doubts exist however as to who will benefit.

"Foreign financial institutions can localize their business in China and develop business here, while Chinese banks can learn advanced management, both at a low cost in terms of time," said Jin Shuping, chairman of the board of China Minsheng Banking Corporation.

Mr. Jin made the remarks at the "International Forum on the Cooperation between and Development of Chinese and Foreign Financial Institutions" held on January 16 in Beijing.

On the last day of 2001, Bank of Shanghai, a local city commercial bank in Shanghai, signed an agreement with a consortium consisting of Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Shanghai Commercial Bank, allowing the latter to hold 18% of shares by purchasing.

Reliable sources say, China's Bank of Communications has the intention to sell part of its shares to Citibank, which has been in negotiation for some time.

Mr. Yan Binzhu, president of Beijing City Commercial Bank told Beijing Today, HSBC and IFC had contacted his bank several years ago.

Wei Hongsheng, vice president of Minsheng stressed that Sino-foreign cooperation cannot be limited only to capital integration. Instead, cooperation also includes technology and resources co-sharing, business and networking, as well as human resource training.

Richard Brown, regional head of Citibank's financial service, Asia & Pacific, pointed out at the forum that, foreign financial institutions' entry to the Chinese market does not mean a certain business decline and market shrinking of their Chinese counterparts. Both sides need join together in developing their common market, thus reaching a win-win result shared by all.



# Temple Fairs Broaden Their Appeal



Preparations are underway at Longtan Park Photo by Tie Lan

By Sun Ming

Preparations are well underway in Beijing for those ever-popular Spring Festival standards, the temple fairs.

According to organizers of the Longtan temple fair (龙潭庙会), held in Longtan Park, some new items and activities will be featured this year besides the traditional folk art performances and

snack stalls.

From the February 11 to 18, fair goers will have the opportunity to watch drum, puppet and shadow puppet performances, as well as demonstrations of Sichuan Opera "face changing" or bianlian. There will also be exhibitions of some well-known Tianjin folk arts including Yangliuqing's new year pictures (杨柳青年画), Zhang's clay figurines (泥人张) and Wei's kites (风筝卫).

Marshall arts demonstrations will also make their debut at the Longtan temple fair, with judo, tai kwon do boxing exhibitions by athletes from Chinese national teams. Meanwhile Chinese draughts, Chinese chess, and go masters will accept challenges from visitors to pit their wits against them.

Organizers have also invited Bora Milutinovic, coach of the Chinese National Men's soccer team and something of a hero since the team's success in qualifying for the World Cup last October.

# Porridge on Sunday!

By Su Wei

This Sunday is the eighth day of the twelfth lunar month, and in northern China that means Laba porridge for breakfast!

Eating Laba porridge for breakfast is said to ensure a good harvest in the coming year. But to prepare it properly, it should be cooked overnight.

Laba is made from a variety of grains, nuts and dried fruit, which can include, red, yellow, scented and glutinous rice, millet, Job's tears (the seeds of a variety of wild grass), red beans, scarlet beans, lotus seeds, chestnuts, peanuts, Chinese wolfberry, and dried apples, pears,

apricots and peaches.

Zhang Hui Fang, a sales assistant at Chaoshifa supermarket expects sales of these items to increase significantly before Sunday, saying "More people will buy Laba ingredients this year, as it falls on Sunday so people have more time to prepare it."

However if it still sounds like too much work, several Chinese fast food restaurants and snack bars will offer their own specially prepared Laba porridge from morning to night on Sunday, such as Nalaishun Restaurant, Xingyuelou Restaurant, Dianmen Snack Bar, Huguosi Snack Bar.

# Famous Artist Wins Copyright Action

By Sun Ming

Renowned artist Pan Jizi received the news in his hospital bed that he had won his copyright infringement case.

Beijing's Second Intermediate People's court ruled that Taibai publishing house had made illegal use of Pan's paintings for a series of book covers, and should pay 110,000 yuan compensation to the 87-year-old artist. Wangfujing Bookstore has also been ordered to stop selling the books.

Pan is a top Gongbi artist (工笔画), a painting style that emphasizes exact delineation and enriched colors. Several years ago, he produced a group of Gongbi drawings named Flower and beauties. From October 1996 to February 2000, Taibai Publishing House issued a series of books using these works to illustrate the covers, without his permission.

What really upset Pan, was that the series, Chinese Prohibited Classical Novels consisted of 15 classical novels which were once banned for their lurid sexual content.

According to his son Pan He, the publication of the books ran counter to his father's purpose in producing these works and caused serious psychological and physiological harm to his father.

"Hearing the news in June last year, his blood pressure went up to 220," said Pan He. "We had

to send him to hospital immediately." Till now, Pan remains hospitalized.

Pan He subsequently sued Taibai Publishing House, and Wangfujing Bookstore, which sold the books, became another defendant in the case.

Pan Jizi himself published an article expressing his indignity toward the publishing house in October last year. He asked Taibai to stop its infringement at once, apologize to him publicly and pay 3,500,000 yuan in damages.

Taibai Publishing House said in its defense that the Chinese Prohibited Classical Novels were not obscene at all. It is just that the novels were prohibited in conservative ancient China. They also said that the person who designed the covers was employed by another publishing house, and that they had signed an agreement that the designer was responsible for any problems resulting from his design.

"We'll discuss with our lawyers whether we'll appeal to a higher court," said Chen Changhua, chief editor of the series. At the same time, he said that they would apologize to Pan.

Meanwhile Pan's lawyer said that the compensation of 110,000 yuan was far from enough, and they would probably appeal to a higher court too. "Such a small sum is not sufficient deterrent for copyright infringements."



The old Wolong primary school

# Devoted to Kids

By Ivy Zhang

If you went to the movies at Beijing's 21st Century Theatre on Friday, you must have noticed a jolly lady keeping herself busy selling Kodak calendars in the foyer. The money from the sales of the calendar will go to UNESCO to fund the building of primary schools in China's poverty-stricken areas.

The woman's name is Doreen Huang. An American Chinese, Doreen has a big heart for the children and devotes all her time and efforts to helping the less fortunate. As the administration manager of UNESCO in Beijing for 17 years, Doreen takes every opportunity to raise funds in support of primary school education across China. So far, she has personally raised US\$800,000 since 1993, and helped build 13 primary schools in five provinces in China.

"I always believe in the importance of education, because when I was little, I knew education would free us and gave us better access to many opportunities," she says. "If you are not educated, you can't go anywhere."

Doreen came to China in 1984 to work at the Beijing UNESCO office. During the first two years, she found it difficult to adjust to life here. "I thought I would struggle for



Doreen Huang

Photo by Qiu Binbin

one year. After that I'll go back," she recalls. Two years later, Doreen realized she had started to enjoy living a simple life and that there was less stress and not much to worry about.

In 1993, when she was about to return to work in UNESCO headquarters in Paris she wanted to do something big before leaving China. Building a school was the only thing she could only think of, so she began searching for donors. Air France Foundation offered to provide funding to improve a very poor school in the Beijing area, and so the Wolong Sleeping Dragon Primary School project came

into being.

Designed by an architect from China Youth Science & Technology Foundation for free and with the help of villagers who were happy to do something good for their own children and their future, construction began on a three-story school building in the summer of 1998. Three months later, a beautiful brick building was erected and a grand opening ceremony was held on International Literacy Day, September 8.

In front of the building, there is a basketball court. At first, children were afraid to walk on it and they looked at it a long time before stepping onto the cement. Then the International School of Beijing wanted to have a basketball competition with the children. When they arrived, they found that the kids there had never played basketball before. So they just taught them how to play basketball. Now the children can play very well.

"I hope that one day other schools could come to compete with them in basketball," Doreen said. "Now they have finished the garden and the playground area. I'm much happier. The only thing missing is a dormitory. A dorm is important for the children to finish the schooling because some of them live two or four hours away from school."

# Great Photos of Great Wall

By Su Wei

As we featured in last week's Beijing Today, Argentina photographer Diego Azubel recently completed a trek from one end of the Great Wall to the other. Earlier this week, an exhibition of Azubel's photos opened at the Argentina Embassy.

Among the 45 color prints on display, are views of Jiayuguan Fort - the western terminus of the Great Wall, the tombs of the Western Xia Dynasty at Helan Shan, ruins of the wall in Gansu Province, as well as shots of the people who live by the wall. Catherine Finch, a freelance writer in Beijing says of the exhibition, "They show the tradition in China. There is life in the photos."

Chinese photographer Zheng Nong says the photos illustrate the difference in the way westerners and Chinese see and photograph. "The scenes are not beautiful in the common sense. There is more emphasis on human beings in these photos."

According to Diego, he just photographs what he sees, trying to capture with his cameras the rare beauty both in nature and in people's expressions. He hopes that through the exhibition, people will gain a better understanding of what China is. He also hopes to sell some photos, saying that some of the proceeds will be used to help the children of the Wall.

# Wang Zhizhi Debuts on Stamps

By Chen Ying

The first Asian to play in the NBA, Beijinger Wang Zhizhi, won another honor recently.

The world's largest postal agency Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) has published a set of stamps featuring Wang Zhizhi. It's a part of the Legends of Sports postage stamp series issued by the government of Liberia and produced by IGPC. Wang Zhizhi is the first Chinese athlete to be featured in the series.

The set of stamps was unveiled at a special event at the NBA Store on Fifth Avenue in New York. Wang attended the first public showing of the stamps, telling reporters "It is indeed a great honor. I just play in NBA games. I hope I can develop my talent and don't let down NBA fans, especially Chinese fans."

The stamps will be available through stamp dealers and traders around the world.

This is Wang's second season in the NBA. He rejoined the Mavericks at the end of last November. In his first NBA season, he averaged 4.8 points, 1.4 rebounds in 7.6 minutes per game and scored a total of 24 points in five games. Wang is one of 51 international players from 30 countries in the NBA.

Liberia has a long tradition of issuing postage stamps to honor the achievements of major international athletes such as Jesse Owens, Muhammad Ali, Pele, Joe Frazier, Floyd Patterson and George Foreman.



Xinhua photo

# Picasso Challenges Beijing's Children

By Sun Ming

The Picasso print exhibition 'Black and White Images' has been running for a month in Beijing, and it seems that some visitors are less than appreciative of the master's works.

Staff at the Art Museum of the China Millennium Monument have reported finding comments on a message board such as "Picasso is a sex maniac." "He is obscene!" From the handwriting, it is evident that they were written by children.

Among the 161 original Picasso prints, many depict nude females. Picasso exaggerated the sexual characteristics of many of them with simple geometric figures. "Perhaps this is the reason," said an art teacher from a middle school. "In class, we introduce some of Picasso's works featuring animals, but we never mention his nudes."

"Dad won't allow me to see those prints," an 8-year-old girl who was copying a print of an animal confided in the reporter. The mother of a 5-year-old boy said that she felt it a pity that so many of the prints were of nude females. "I'm afraid that he'll be influenced by them."

According to education experts, children have few opportunities to see nude paintings in the Chinese social and educational environment. For many Chinese children, nude is synonymous with obscenity.

However in western countries, children are more frequently exposed to nudes, either in the course of their normal education or in social surroundings. Thus, they are unlikely to react in such a fashion when they encounter this kind of artwork.



Picasso reading comments about himself Photo by Qu Liyan



Photo by Li Guiming

Last Monday, more than one thousand winter swimming enthusiasts gathered in Jiulong Park. Most of the participants are elderly men and women, and the oldest is 83 years old! There are now some 3,000 winter swimmers in Beijing (Sun Ming)



# Old Books for New Students

## City educators learn from Moscow children

By Chen Ying

Beijing students might learn a thing or two from Moscow children, believes Liu Shufen. Liu's January 12 article in Beijing Youth Daily unearthed interesting cultural differences in the treatment of textbooks.

Liu found five signatures on the last page of a physics textbook. Staying at a friend's home in Moscow, Liu realized her host's child was using old school textbooks. The schools in fact loan students textbooks instead of selling them.

Students write their names, the loan date and other such details on the last page of the book. The seventh-grade child told Liu every student took responsibility for his or her textbook. It's considered shameful to blemish the books.

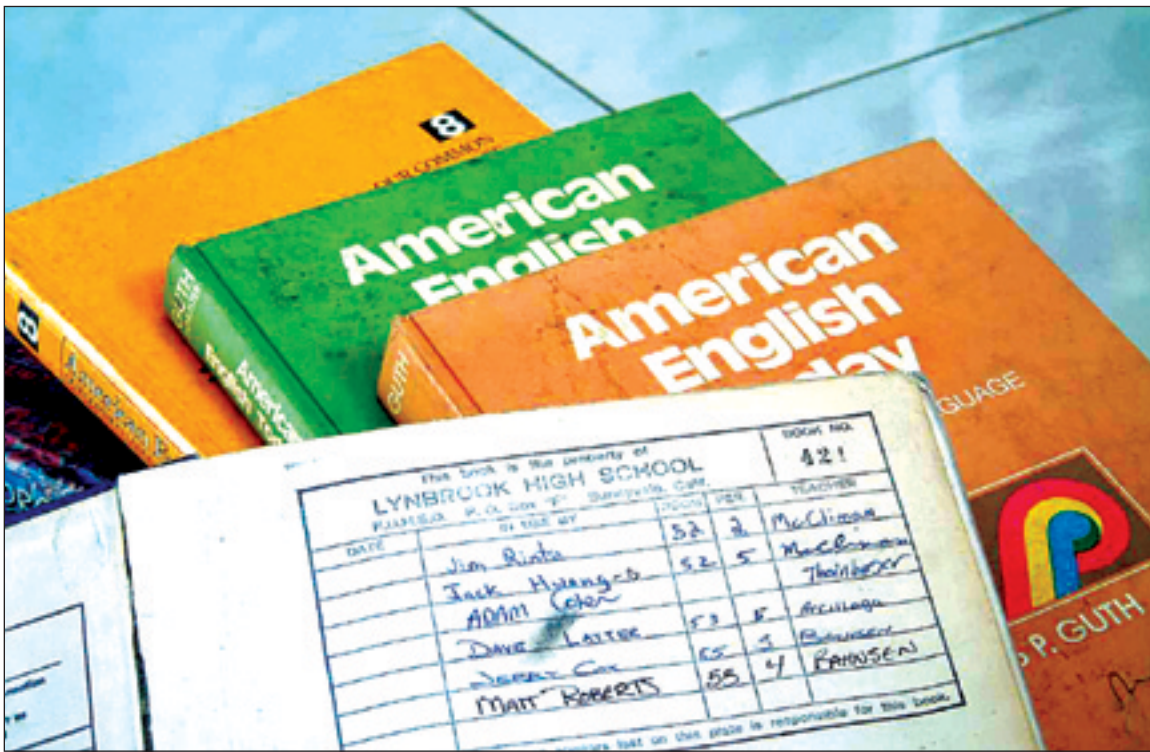
Students are allowed to underline or make marks with pencil, but they must erase these marks before they return the book. The book was still intact and neat, although not new. It will be used for several more years. It's a subtle difference of approach that Liu believes speaks volumes about education systems. What she did not know perhaps is that UNICEF has similar policies running in rural areas.

Can Beijing adopt this method? Opinions follow:

### Liu Shufen

It doesn't just mean saving paper. It's invaluable to cultivate the children's sense of responsibility to society and the virtue of cherishing public property.

In Beijing, it is said parents will spend more than 200 yuan



It's also common to use old textbooks in the USA.

Photo by Cindy

buying textbooks for a middle school student each term while they will pay 300 yuan for a primary school student for one academic year. It will cost 400 million yuan each year, as I reckon it.

Indeed, it's very difficult to lend students textbooks for basic education in China. But it's still useful to save as many as possible. There is always a way if people take things seriously.

### Wang Li, teacher Fangcaodi Primary School

I think this idea can't be realized in China at present. For instance, at the beginning of this term, our school encouraged students to bring some interesting books to share with their class-

mates.

Although teachers had told the children that they should cherish others' property, many of the books had been torn when we checked on the books recently. So the first step is to improve students' character.

The key to this is the opinion of parents. They can affect children's behavior directly. Students more easily accept a view if their parents advise them accordingly. Unfortunately, many parents lack this kind of consciousness.

Moreover, many parents and students think textbooks are a part of their personal property. You can find many textbooks in a child's bookshelves as many families feel they might be use-

ful in some way.

Actually, they are more likely to end up selling them as trash only when they finally move house. It's really wasteful. But it's a traditional opinion that's hard to change.

I think we can start to carry out this idea in some schools where there are comparatively few students. For example, my school has 1,800 students. It's really difficult to administer all the students to abide by the rules.

Compared with children who live in cities, many parents can't afford their children to go to school in many depressed areas of China. But I think these children are simpler than the former. It's really a good idea to

save money and pool their resources. They can keep these books a long time.

### Zhang Weiwei, student Xinzhongjie High School

I feel it's a good method. It could save money and boost knowledge at the same time. Plus it's useful in protecting the environment. I won't complain if I share textbooks with others.

It would ensure textbooks are used for several years if schools put this method into practice. But now many of the textbooks will be changed just after being used few years. Maybe schools can carry out this idea in some basic subjects.

### Tong Guozhu, an under-graduate student's mother

Traditionally, China's parents are generous spending money in support of their children's study career. But I think lending public textbooks is a good idea. At least it can reduce the burden on the families.

Today most Chinese parents spoil their kids. Children lack the cultivation to realize they should cherish books. Usually, textbooks will have an entirely different appearance, certainly a poorer appearance, after children have used them. It's a social problem. Society, schools and parents should be responsible for this.

Cultivating good habits should start when children are very little. We can encourage kids to cherish something when they are at kindergarten. There is an old Chinese saying '书非借不能读也' (the best-read book is borrowed). I hope children can appreciate the real meaning of this.

### SOUND BITES

"This assassination means that Sharon is insisting on behaving as a state of mafia and gangs, adopting assassinations as a matter of policy and wilfully targeting innocent Palestinians."

— **Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi blames Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon for Palestinian leader Raed al-Karmi's death**

"What can we do? Where can we go? Every day, the Americans are dropping bombs. Last night there were six and this morning there were five. We are very afraid of the bombs, and we are very angry at the Americans. There is no reason for this. The camps are empty, but still the Americans are dropping their bombs."

— **Khalil Jan, a shepherd in Zhawar, Afghanistan**

"Both leaders understand that the potential consequences of a war in south Asia are not something you want to contemplate. Both sides have said they are looking for a peaceful solution through diplomatic means. We really cannot have a war in South Asia. We have to find a way to work through this crisis."

— **Colin Powell, US Secretary of State, in Islamabad on a mission to cool tension between India and Pakistan**

"There is a real boycott going on in parliament. There is a rift within Zanu-PF."

— **John Makumbe, chairman of the Zimbabwe Crisis Committee for Zimbabwe, delaying a bill to curb the press**

By Chen Ying

北京青年报  
BEIJING TODAY  
今日北京

《北京青年报·房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力事使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, which is pressed every Friday, is a new advertising special one for the real estate and relative industries. The English Edition is delivered with the newspaper so the media advantage is very obvious. Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, aiming at the advertiser's requests for the more pertinence, let the policy-makers read the relative content directly and try to reach the most advertisement effectiveness

HOT TEL: 13910419797 84014823

房产版(英文版)  
让我们和太阳一起升起

Dart Foreign Affairs  
Management Office

\*Yard architecture with European style  
\*sufficient parking space, convenient traffic, complete facilities and offering service around the day  
\*\*Dart Commerce Office

1. it is located between CBD center and Guomao  
2. favourable price: RMB3-4 yuan/squaremeter/day  
3. telephone number: 65032597 or 64951817  
\*\*Dart Commerce Garden

1. it is located in the New Olympic sphere and it is between foreign account office and the Chinese-Japanese Hospital  
2. favourable price: RMB 2.8-3.5 yuan/squaremeter/day  
3. telephone number: 65032097 or 65032598

My company also has open separate foreign office building with 15000 square meter to be sold (including property right). It is located in north-eastern corner of Siyuan Bridge.

WARWICK INTERNATIONAL  
APARTMENTS

Were we do our job... So you can do yours.  
Special recommended villa at Lido are  
\$6000/29spm/3br/fully furnished  
TEL: (010) 67151166 ext. 3005/3006

赛特饭店 SCITECH HOTEL  
BUSINESS FLOOR ON LINE

Business Floor Standard Room: USD98+15%SC  
Business Floor Suite: USD138+15%SC  
Business Floor Duplex Suite: USD300+15%SC

Express check in & check out Free use 3DDS Internet Lines  
One free buffet in Coffee Shop per day Daily newspaper & Magazine Free use  
swimming pool, GYM and sauna Free income taxes  
Daily happy hours: (17:30-18:30) Welcome amenities on arrival  
One piece free pressing per day

ADD: No. 22 Jianguomenwai Avenue,  
Beijing 10004 P.R. China  
Tel: 8610-65123388  
Fax: 8610-65123542  
E-mail: sthotel@w.com.cn

保罗大厦

◇To South of Lan Dao building, it's new building  
◇Area: 3500m2-4000m2, 430spm/per floor  
◇This building is available to Bank, Negotiable Securities, Business Center, restaurant etc.  
◇24 hours security & hot water  
Tel: 65958081 65958060  
Mobil: 13701350511 13910890956  
Add: No. 38 Chao Wai Avenue  
Chao Yang district Beijing

北京市国宾大厦  
BEIJING AMBASSADOR MANSION  
Ambassador Mansion  
Good News!

Newly decorated apartments and offices  
Apartment styles Available!  
Range from 1 bedroom to 4 bedroom  
USD1000/month up

Office Styles  
Next area from 20m2-1600m2  
Ambassador Mansion  
is an excellent choice for your business or life For more information  
Call us at 010-64384093  
or fax on 010-64380148

龙潭涉外公寓  
LONGTAN APARTMENTS

from \$500/month. 34-110 sq.m  
(studio, 1-2 bedrooms)  
Fully furnished with satellite TV, IDD appliances.  
24 hour hot water, security,  
plentiful parking  
near the Temple of Heaven,  
Chongwen District  
call now for more details.  
67115358 67128749

City Plaza (Phase) And  
Palace International

Address: 3A, Shi Lipu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China  
Transportation: conveniently close to Chaoyang Road, Jingtong Express Way, and Ciyunsi Bridge of the 4th Ring Road  
Services: Receptionist (Lobby), Tickets, Room Service, Home Maid.  
Room Cleaning, Home Appliance Repairs, and Flowers.  
Rental Returns: USD900.00-2200 per month  
Current Occupation Rate: Offices: 100%; Department 95.7%  
Business Tax: 0.4%  
Management Fees: Palace International: RMB800 per square meter per month for Cleaning, Security (in-door and out-door) Vegetation, Elevators, Elevators, Minor Repairs, Room.

HOT TEL: 65561798

Sunflower Tower  
盛福大厦

Investors: Philipp Holzmann Anlagen GmbH  
Location: No. 37, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing Next to the Liang Ma Hotel. Located at the East 3rd Ring Road  
Area: 817 square meters (based on architectural area) on 24th Floor  
Asking rent: USD28/month/sqm (gross including management)  
Communication: Supplied nodes IDD lines and 4MB of Capacity  
ISDN is available  
Elevator: 10 KONE elevators HVAC System: Four-pipe system  
Amenities: Business center, Exhibition facilities, Retail space  
Existing Tenants: Walt Disney, BASY, KONE, E-turtle Next work

Tel: 85275696-608

寻求合作

本公司欲求东二环东三环附近写字楼式办公楼进行合作。要求: 手续合法, 价格合理, 中介免谈, 真心合作者请来电 64055786

this newspaper's perennial legal adviser: Beijing Jingtai law office undertaking mostly:

1. real estate business that buy, rent and manage kinds of licences in Beijing;  
2. foreign cases, maritime, finance, bond, important and difficult affairs;  
3. debt, economy contract, foreign marriage cases, criminal defense;  
4. notarizations;  
5. holding perennial legal advisers for foreign enterprises, providing legal assistance;  
6. providing law, regulations and contract versions in any languages.

TEL: 86-10-83511218 FAX: 86-10-83525557  
http://www.venus-law.com e-mail: jt@venus-law.com



# Chinese Brands Seek to Build Broader Market

By Su Wei

In 1995, there were around 200 domestic brands of electrical appliances competing for market share. At that time, Haier was valued at just 3.17 billion yuan.

However the intense competition has led to considerable consolidation of the market, with only 20 or so electrical appliance manufacturers remaining in the domestic market.

Furthermore, the top three household appliance manufacturers Haier, Changhong and TCL, together account up to 90% of the total market.

## Brand value consistent with market share increases

The most valuable domestic brand was averaged at 9.7 billion yuan for 2001, more than 1.3 billion yuan for 2000. The sales revenue for those brands in 2001 has risen by about 39.7%, compared with 2000.

Midea, an electrical appliance manufacturer, has attracted particular attention. In 2001, both its brand value and market share increased by more than 50% over 2000. Meanwhile, TCL, Legend and Shuanghui also achieved big increases in both brand value and market share.

## Brand competition era has arrived

Only 12 brands that made the 1995 top 20 remain in the list. Every year one or two brands disappear from the rankings, a result of the ongoing consolidation process.

As brands disappear, the companies that own the remaining brands grow. The average sales revenue for the above-mentioned 12 brands was 4.6 billion yuan in 1999, compared with 17 billion yuan in 2000 representing an average annual growth of 45%.

Meanwhile, the average sales revenue for the most valuable brands of 2001 was 11.3 billion in 2000, compared with just under 3 billion yuan in 1994, an almost four-fold increase in six years, or 47% growth per year.

Another exciting phenomenon is that in 2000, more brands achieved sales revenue of over 10 billion yuan.

Specifically, seven of the 2001 most valuable brands reported sales revenue of more than 10 billion and 13 reported sales revenue of more than 5 billion yuan. Sales revenue for Hongta Group (owner of Hongtashan), Haier and China FAW all topped 40 billion yuan in 2000 respectively.

In 1994, only two of the 2001 top brands had sales revenue of over 10 billion yuan, while the rest were below 5 billion yuan.

## Famous brands benefit from asset reconstruction

The enterprises that own the most valuable brands of 2001 have invested in 553 enterprises in the past six years, 523 of which are new operations.

Hongta Group, the largest investor, has invested a total of 11.8 billion yuan in 72 enterprises, 48 of which are new ones.

A senior manager at Hongta group said, "Although we are originally a producer of cigarettes, nearly one seventh of our annual income is non-cigarette related."

Meanwhile as a result of brand expansion, especially for the most valuable ones, company's assets have increased.

The total assets of the owners of the top brands have been valued at about 10.5 billion yuan, while the non-current assets have reached an average value of 2.8 billion yuan, nearly four times that of 1994.

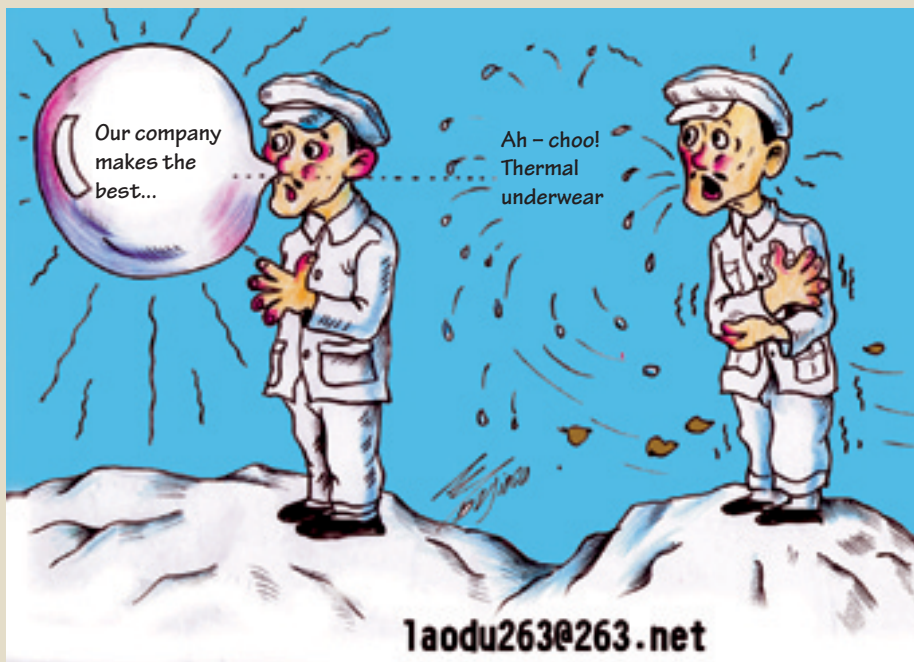
Therefore, sales revenue of the owners of valuable brands has doubled.

But meanwhile, those enterprises

*Hongtashan, a domestic cigarette brand, has maintained an unshakable grip on first place in a list of the most valuable domestic brands for the past seven years.*

*The list, compiled from 110 domestic enterprises by Beijing Famous-Band Evaluation (BFBE), rates the "brand value" of companies according to their annual turnover and profits, and the input and advertisements for establishing and developing the brand's reputation.*

*Hongtashan was valued at 46 billion yuan, followed by domestic appliance manufacturers Haier (43.6 billion yuan) and Changhong (26.1 billion yuan), Sichuan based distillery Wuliangye (15.7 billion yuan) and domestic appliance manufacturer TCL (14.5 billion yuan), making up the top five most valuable domestic brands of 2001.*



experiencing difficulties may also benefit.

According to an enterprise taken over by Hongta Group, the move has allowed them to survive and develop in the market. "It is no use running an operation if the workers have to go without pay for several months," said a spokesperson, "The take-over has brought us hope; the workers now have work to do and get their pay every month."

## Industry definition not as distinct as before

Household appliances and beverages remain the two main categories on the 2001 list, representing about 57% of the total brands.

There are now only ten household appliance brands on the list, namely Haier, Changhong, TCL, Legend, Konka, Media, Kelon, Ronsheng, Little Swan and Fotile, compared with 26 brands in 1995.

In the beverage category, there are six brands: Wuliangye, Gujing, Tsingdao, Yanjing, Dynasty and Lolo, compared with 14 in 1995.

Meanwhile, enterprises are diversifying more and more. Haier now manufactures a broad range of products, including refrigerators, air-conditioners, washing machines, televisions, computers, mobile phones, microwave ovens and even biological medicine.

The products of TCL range from household appliances to IT communication products to electrical engineering product components.

These enterprises say brand expansion has brought new ideas in product research and management. "Within only one or two years, we have grown to a size it would have taken ten years to reach with just a single product."

## More work needed to enter top 500

Even the lowest ranked of the world's top 500 companies had a turnover of over \$10 billion in 2000. In contrast, Hongta and Haier Groups each had turnovers of less than \$5 billion (46 billion yuan and

43.6 billion yuan respectively).

Therefore it may take three or four years for domestic enterprises with the most valuable brands to enter the world's top 500, even if they continue growing at an average of 20-30% per year.

The main difficulty faced by the domestic enterprises is the low priority placed on product research and development.

According to the State Intellectual Property Bureau, 87% of patent applications in other countries are for invention patents, compared with only 18% in China. 82% of the applications in China are for product improvements and exterior design.

2,500 of the approved patents from the top enterprises were for exterior designs, about 62% of the total applied for, followed by 1,400 for product improvements (35%). In contrast, only 143 were invention patents, less than 4% of the total.

Furthermore, the profit per 100 yuan for the most valuable brands has experienced a sharp fall from 16.22 yuan in 1994 to 5.49 yuan in 2000. Price wars are cited as the main reason for the profit decrease.

Taking the domestic color TV industry as an example, by 2000, there were 116.8 TV sets per hundred households in urban areas in China and 48.7 sets per hundred in villages.

In order to increase market share and attract more consumers, domestic color TV producers have drastically lowered prices.

The average profit per hundred yuan for the three main TV producers Changhong, Konka and TCL has decreased from 16.17 yuan in 1994 to 3.16 yuan in 2000.

However the total turnover has increased from 9.3 billion yuan in 1994 to 41.3 billion yuan in 2000. "We hardly make any profit, but we have no choice," said a spokesperson for one of the companies.

They argue if they had not lowered prices, consumers would not even inquire about the price. "Can you believe it is now possible to buy a 21 inch TV set for less than 400 yuan?"

By Su Wei

## Weekly Survey

### City Dwellers Optimistic

More than 50% of the residents of large cities are satisfied with their life last year and over 75% believe life in 2002 will be even better.

Horizon.com has conducted a survey among 4,226 city dwellers in ten large Chinese cities, including Beijing Shanghai and Guangzhou, about their attitudes towards life in 2001.

48% of those surveyed say they were satisfied with life in 2001, compared with 50% expressing the same attitude in 2000. 11% say they were happy, the same number as in 2000.

According to Wang Cunhua, a middle-aged laid-off worker, "It is no use complaining about society. I must learn more in order to keep up with the changes."

Meanwhile, the "social safety sense index" increased slightly to 3.38 in 2001, up from 3.29 in 2000. The indexes for expected personal income and consumption confidence both rose, from 3.42 to 3.78 and from 2.45 to 2.66 respectively. The consumption confidence index reached its highest level for the past three years.

The steadily rising GDP, entry to the WTO and wide ranging salary rises have all contributed to increasing optimism about 2002.

### More Concerned about

### Psychological Problems

Sources from Xinhaizhou Psychological Consulting Clinic say that people aged 20 to 50 accounted for the majority of those seeking psychological consulting services in the center in 2001.

Those seeking help suffered from a variety of psychological problems, resulting from job pressures, communication difficulties, depression, emotional problems, children- concerns, marriage and family issues, as well as sexual problems.

Students aged between 6 and 18 also suffered from psychological problems, stemming from issues including worries about study methods, communication, puberty related problems, boy/girlfriend issues, making friends and finding jobs. However only 15% of those who sought psychological consulting were university students. In contrast 30% were primary and middle school students.

The elderly also suffered from psychological problems, related to concern about children's education, concern about being supported by their children and their own health problems. But less than 10% of the total seeking consulting were old people.

### Income Gap Increases

### in Finance Industry

The Xicheng Taxation Bureau has released a survey on salaries in local banking and financial organizations.

Commercial bank staff are usually paid higher salaries than others. Some ordinary staff in commercial banks have an annual income more than 60,000 yuan. Middle and senior management staff can earn over 100,000 yuan annually.

The government has restricted banks from combining salary and extra benefits. As a result, such perquisites for bank staff as housing subsidies and free transport to and from work have disappeared, meaning a decrease in real income.

Meanwhile, staff working at the head offices of financial institutions usually earn a lower income than those at branches and subsidiaries. The main reason is probably that head offices usually require their subsidiaries to hand in a certain amount of savings per year.

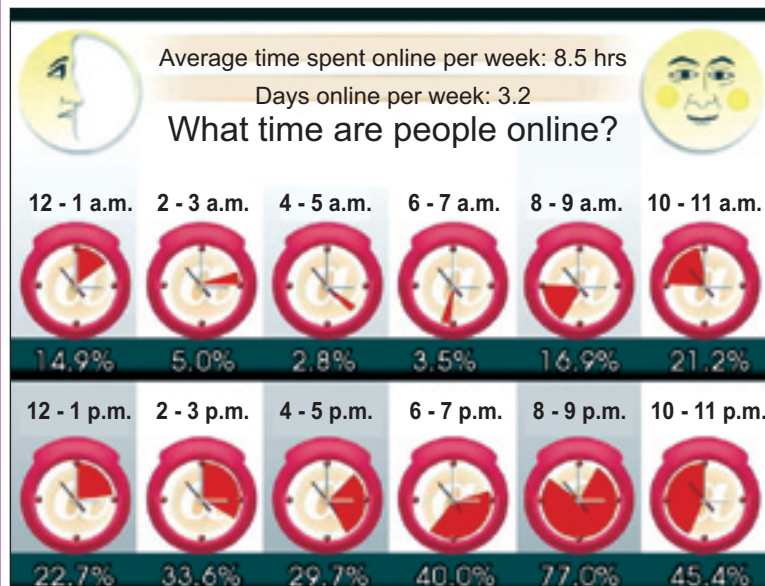
In order to fulfil the allocated amounts, the subsidiaries then allocate the required saving amount to the individual staff, who are awarded bonuses based on their efforts in this regard.

Also, salary for staff in financing companies is generally higher than that of their counterparts in companies dealing in futures trading, while the staff of trust investment companies are often the lowest paid, due to the more stringent government controls in developing new business projects.

## Snap-Shot

# Peak time online

# 8 - 9 p.m.



Source: China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC)



# Yellow River Wreaks Havoc in Inner Mongolia

*Almost 1,000 students without schools in wake of disaster*

Wuda district in the west of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region lies between the Yellow River in the South and the Alashan desert in the Northwest. It has an area of 219.7 square kilometers and a population of 130,000.



By Deng Xingjun/Toy Zhang

**L**ate last year, the Yellow River broke through the Wulan Mutou dyke at Wuhai in Inner Mongolia. A torrent of ice and water poured through the 38-meter-wide breach, devastating five villages, three farms, two schools and thirteen processing factories. Although the flood caused widespread property damage, no lives were lost.

Half a month later, the almost 4,000 people, from 900 families have all been evacuated, while property including houses and livestock remain behind in a frozen, flooded ruin. Direct economic loss is estimated at RMB 130,000,000 yuan.

On January 13, a special initiative titled "emergency aid to educate children in disaster struck areas in Wuhai city" was launched by the Beijing Youth League Commission, Beijing Youth Development Foundation, Hope Project Beijing Contribution Center and Beijing Youth Daily. Organizers are calling on society to give a helping hand to those kids, to enable them to resume their studies as quickly as possible.

Beijing Youth Daily sent a reporter to Wuhai last week to find out exactly what happened and how recovery work was progressing.

**Tractors, dead pigs and sheep, grain, children's textbooks and even a bride's dowry buried in the ice**

Stretching in front of the reporter lay a boundless stretch of ice. A freezing wind gusted fitfully and the icy surface of the Yellow River creaked. A couple of disaster-relief trucks roared by, loaded with earth to strengthen the new dyke.

Wulan Mutou village is one of five villages hit by the flood and stands right on the edge of the river. The whole village now lies encased in two meters of iced-over floodwater. Stepping gingerly, the reporter saw buried in the ice, tractors, dead pigs and sheep, grain, children's textbooks and even a bride's dowry. Nearby, some villagers were busy digging out grain and clothing with shovels.

At nine o'clock in the morning of Jan. 8, the reporter arrived at No. 2 primary school of Wuda farm, a makeshift classroom for the children of the flooded Wulan Mutou villages. Here he met a six-year-old kid named Liu Tingzhi.

Liu took the reporter to his

"home" in the village. His father, Liu Xiqiang, was breaking the ice in an effort to salvage anything of use. In the village where the average annual income per household is less than 2,000 yuan, Liu's family, with seven or eight years of savings, was relatively well off before the disaster. "Now, every family is the same. We all have to begin from nothing," said Liu Xiqiang.

However, Liu's family is the most fortunate among the unfortunate. His home is farthest away from the riverbank. When the dyke broke, the family were able to move 30 sheep and some valuables to a dune in the west of the yard. They suffered the smallest loss in the village.

Other villagers were not so lucky. New Year's day was an important day for the youngest son of 51-year-old Zhou Fenglin. Zhou had spent two months in preparation for the wedding, purchasing furniture and booking the banquet. "When the flood came, my son's furniture had just been delivered to our home. Now they are all sunk in the water," he told the reporter. "The wedding proceeded as planned but there was no new house, and no new quilts and clothes." On the day of the wedding, Zhou presided over the simple ceremony in the farm's canteen.

There were a total of 176 households in the village. However, during the reporter's visit to the village, only seven or eight families were found living there. "They've got no homes and no grain. They've moved to other places," said one man who has been living in the village for 41 years. "Look, the houses still stand in the ice now. But when the weather turns warm in the spring, the ice will melt and they will all collapse."

**Before I knew it, I was up to my ankles in water and the only idea I had was to escape**

"About 9:25 a.m. on December 17, 2001, the water broke through the Wulan Mutou section. The Yellow River carrying lumps of ice swept in over the farmland and towards the villages and the schools. The crest of the floodwater was nearly 400 meters wide with waves two meters high," said Wang Zhiming, party secretary of Qiaoxi town. He says even now he finds it hard to believe what he saw that day.

Two hours after the dyke was breached, the floodwaters swept into the village. Huang Ruixia, a villager in her 30's, was preparing lunch at that time. "The flood came



Even during the day, the make-shift classrooms need lights

Photos by Qian Bingge



The frozen school with national flag still flying



Zhang Chunyan, a 17-year-old girl, standing in her shattered home



A flood ravaged classroom

## Appeal for donations

All donations to help these kids get back to school are gratefully appreciated. There are two specific projects, as listed below.

1. Special scholarship. A one-time scholarship with no limit on the donated value. With 200 yuan, a child is able to resume their studies at school.
2. Building Hope Project schools. A Hope Project school can be built with 200,000 yuan. Two project schools are planned. If you donate 200,000 yuan, the school can be named after you.

By noon yesterday, about 100 people had donated RMB 93,700 yuan and 468 local students had been financed to pursue studies, according to Han Zhengxian, director of implementation department, Hope Project Beijing Contribution Center.

**Donation hotline: 66110001/2/3**

Location: Rm. 219, Beijing Youth Palace, No. 68, Xizhimen Nan Xiao Jie, Xicheng district, Beijing, 100035

Recipient: Hope Project Beijing Contribution Center

all of a sudden. Before I knew it, I was up to my ankles in water. The only idea I had was to escape and I didn't even have time to take one more dress." She paused and then added, "If the disaster had occurred at night, I would most likely be dead."

The major cause of the disaster was the early freezing of the Bameng section of the Yellow River downstream, causing the water to build up further upstream at Wuhai. From December 13 last year, the temperature around Wuhai plummeted. Then on December 16, it rose again abruptly, causing the water level to rise as the ice melted, and washed away the embankment. In the wake of the disaster, more than 1,000 rescue workers rushed to the site, and after six days of fierce fighting, the breach was successfully sealed.

**When asked, "What will you do if you have to quit school?" a little girl answered, "Till the land!"**

In the west end of the village, the frozen water came halfway up the door posts of No.2 Wuda Vegetable Farm Primary School. The reporter had to step across a one-meter-high ice threshold. Windows of the classrooms in the path of the flood were all smashed.

In a classroom marked Grade 3, an incomplete sentence beginning "a wolf wagging its tail..." could be seen on the blackboard. The floor was still covered with ice, in which students' meal boxes, exercise books and scattered chalk lay frozen.

Zhang Mingzhu, the headmaster of the school, said the school's floor area used to be 13,000 square meters. In addition to classrooms and offices, there were also a computer room, laboratory and reading room. In the wake of the disaster, only two computers remain intact.

Three children accompanying the reporter to visit their flooded homes couldn't help running to the entrance of the school as they passed, pointing towards their classrooms in excitement.

When asked, "What will you do if you have to quit school?" Chen Xiaomin, a little girl, answered, "Till the land!"

At present, students are attending classes in a cement plant. Seven classes with 80-plus students have been regrouped to fit in five classrooms. Other students have been relocated to other schools. Even in this way, the school is short of teaching materials. In order to

maintain something approaching normal teaching, Zhang bought the required teaching materials with 400 yuan from his own pocket, equivalent to one month's salary.

**Without the school, what should my kid do for the next semester?**

During a visit to the households remaining in the village, the reporter asked villagers, "How can you afford to send your kids to school when you have lost even your homes?" Almost all villagers gave the same answer, "We'll do what ever it takes to ensure our kids go to school, even if we have to go hungry."

Huang Ruixia has a son in grade four of the primary school. When the reporter met her, she was digging out coals to prepare lunch. "My son is always in the first or second place in the class," she said.

Stepping into Huang's house, the reporter found cracks in the walls and ceiling of the house. "When spring comes, this house is sure to collapse. It took ten year's of our personal savings to pay for after we married." Huang said in a choked voice, "Without the school, what should my kid do for the next semester? Tuition fees are also a problem for us." Despite her worries about the tuition fees, Huang insists that she'll send her son to school no matter what.

The reporter learnt that many local families are unlikely to be able to afford to send their children to school when the spring semester begins, although it only costs 200 yuan. The only reason is that the disaster has wiped out the villager's savings.

During the 20 or so days after the flood, Zhang kept busy preparing for the makeshift teaching posts. "The school is sure to be rebuilt. No matter how difficult it is, we'll make sure students' studies are uninterrupted."

To help schools get classes going again, villagers in Qiaoxi town donated between 50 and 100 yuan each. Although not enough to rebuild the school, the money can at least ensure that classes continue in the short term. As far as Zhang is concerned, it seems an impossible dream to build a new school with the same level of facilities as that destroyed in the flood.

Wuhai is a poor place. Zhang said the rebuilding of school should depend on the government. He has also sought donations from businesses, but found most local enterprises are also experiencing a hard time.



# Adventures in Flash Space

By Zhao Pu

'Flashmaker' (闪客) has become a familiar name for designers of animations, multimedia presentations, and Web sites using Macromedia Flash software over the last two years in China.

Xiao Xiao, one of the top flashmakers in China, can easily be recognized by his punchy design of the martial arts figures in his Xiao Xiao Series. The 25-year-old flashmaker has enraptured thousands of Internet surfers with his talented creations. Xiao Xiao's real name is Zhu Zhiqiang, 'Xiao Xiao' (小小, 'small small') is his nickname on the Internet.

Starting from an obscure corner on the Internet, a new form of media has crept into our daily lives. While bus passengers are softly singing the song *Dongbei People* by Xue Cun, and young people are talking about the mah-jong in Lao Jiang's *Rock & Roll on the Road of the New Long March*, little kids are imitating the martial arts fighting in Xiao Xiao's animation, showing the trend cannot be ignored.

These adventurous flashmakers have opened up a whole new creative space, where ideas and inspiration can be breathed out so extremely, persistently, ecstatically and freely. Over the last two years, an army of flashmakers has rapidly enlarged from several hundred in 1999 to some 60 thousand by the end of 2001.

## Childhood animation fan

Most people had dreams in their childhood, some realized, but more vanished and forgotten. Xiao Xiao is one of those lucky birds to see his childhood dream take wing and fly.

"Those years of my childhood were all devoted to cartoon and animation drawing," he said. Cartoons make for the strongest colors remaining on the palette of his childhood memory. He fell in love with cartoons when the Seven Dragon Ball (a Japanese cartoon) appeared in domestic market. "I tried to imitate the figures in that cartoon, which prepared for the launch of my animation dream," explained Xiao.

He confessed that he was never a good student in school, "the classes I liked best were art and handicraft." Whenever his hand got its grip on a pen and paper, he began to draw. The hours spent in Chinese, mathematics, English, and history classes at school were also devoted to drawing.

'Mini figures' practicing martial arts won his attention as subjects. "Most of my inspiration came from Jackie Chan's movies," Xiao Xiao said those little figures engaged in combat were his favorite.

He used textbooks as his picture albums, not only his own textbooks, but also those of his classmates and elder brother. He drew his mini fighters on the edge of every page of the textbooks, so when he flicked through a book, the miniature martial arts figures become animated. "This took a lot of time and energy, but brought me more fun and pleasure," Xiao Xiao smiled when recalling his childhood hobby.

Once Xiao Xiao stole a book from his father's bookshelf to continue his work, since the book was thicker than any of his textbook and the paper was finer. His father found him out when he finished half of the book. "My dad was very angry at first, that book happened to be a present from a friend and had been kept aside for many years." He still seems regretful when speaking of his father's unfortunate book. His father didn't punish him however, but felt content after discovering his talent in drawing.

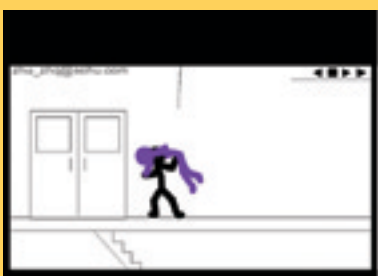
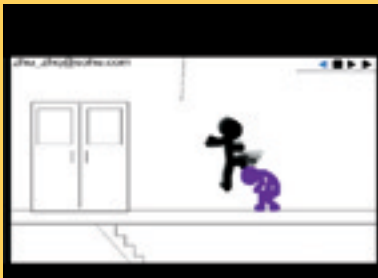
"The mini fighters grew more and more efficient and experienced in their martial arts, as I spent years on them," Xiao Xiao was accompanied by his little figures through his childhood. At the time he had little inkling they would constitute the major part of his future career years later in Beijing.

Besides martial arts fighters, he excelled at sketching. He worked for a photo studio after graduation from high school, and drew portraits for customers.

## From designer to flashmaker

Five years ago, Xiao Xiao left his hometown in northeast China's Jilin Province and came to Beijing at the age of 20. He was introduced by a friend of his brother

## Xiao Xiao No.3



## Comments from the Internet on Xiao Xiao No. 3:

**Yikong 88:** The martial arts in this flash are brilliant, all Chinese action movie directors should learn from this flash.

**Super\_hb:** It's cool! But I think that it would be better with sound effects, which would make it livelier.

**Anncandyellanjulia:** Strong individuality, and violent.

**Evailikeit:** The design is neat. Strong continuity, and vigor, great imagination. I think he can make a good action director for Jackie Chan.

**Linzi-z:** It seems incredible to be able to create such splendid action scenes with these simple line drawings.

**Jonne:** Xiao Xiao is probably not only a superb flash maker, but also a martial arts superior.

**Huachahuacha:** The flashes from this series are perfect! I hope Xiao Xiao will develop some other themes on this idea, like sports. Just imagine if tens of these mini figures attended a basketball or boxing match. That would be interesting.

**Czgsn2001:** I've seen this flash 11 times, plus once in a dream. I dreamt that I was the hero in this fight.

to work as an art designer in a small print film company.

Life was hard at first in the capital far-away from home. His monthly salary was only 800 yuan for the first job. He lived in that private company and worked very hard. "I worked overtime almost everyday, once clocking up 220 extra hours in just one month," Xiao Xiao recalled the hard time he had endured in Beijing. He learned a lot from his first job, especially in designing, which stood him in good stead for later work and also in his flash production.

Xiao Xiao is a quiet young man, easy-going and a little shy; he spoke very slowly and it takes him longer than others to put his ideas into words. But when it comes to design and flash he resolutely sticks to his own ideas. "I am always adamant about my design," he confessed. That resulted in dismissal from his first job. "My Taiwanese boss couldn't bear my stubbornness and I couldn't stand his arbitrary changes on my designs," he smiled.

His second job was similar to the first one, but he had his first encounter with a computer, which became the turning point of his life. There was only one computer in that company, which was for the exclusive use of the accountant. Xiao Xiao was fascinated by the electronic brain and its special languages. "I spend most of my leisure time in the accountant's room learning about the computer," he said that he felt his life coming alight with that computer.

He still remembers the first flash he saw on the Internet, "it was *Rock & Roll on the Road of the New Long March* made by Lao Jiang (another outstanding flashmaker in Beijing), I liked it very much." Full of inspiration from Lao Jiang's flash, he thought about moving his childhood martial arts fighters from the edge of textbook pages into a flash, "I felt that I had found the way for my animation dream."

He began to produce his Xiao Xiao Series from Spring 2000. When he first presented his work on the Internet, unexpected applause for his talent poured in. "During the first two days, I received dozens of emails from people who have watched my production, expressing their appreciation and encouraging me." From the third day, his mailbox was daily crammed with hundreds of emails from interested viewers.

He was invited by Sohu.com in October 2000 to work as an Internet designer. The experience at Sohu.com proved fulfilling and beneficial for him in further study of techniques in flash making.

He soon felt however that the limitations of leisure time did not allow him the space or energy for further creation. So seven months later, he quit and became a 'professional' flashmaker at home.

## A soul fired by animation

Xiao Xiao now rubs shoulders with the best flashmakers in China; he won the Best Flash Game 2001 prize on the leading portal for flash work in China, Flash Empire (flash.ting365.com). But the most exciting point for him is not fame or prizes, but the realization of his childhood dream: animation.

This makes him different from most other flashmakers in China who are oriented towards flash making itself. Xiao Xiao cares more about his animation, in which mini figures fight each other with martial arts, swords or guns.

But it seems that his life has hardly changed or been affected by these possibilities. He stays at home most of the time and seldom goes out, except for some flashmaker get-togethers and activities. All of his time is devoted to animation.

Xiao Xiao has made flashes for some big companies like Hewlett-Packard and Motorola, and has signed a contract with a Korean company for presenting his flashes in Korea. "I feel lucky to be able to combine my interest and career in one," he said.

Many people do not see the future of flash making as especially bright, though it's popular now. Xiao Xiao still holds that he will continue with animation making in the future, in whatever form, whether flash or something else. "I will also make TV and movie animation in the future," he confidently predicted.



① Showing a portrait of Hong Kong movie star Cherie Chung he drew more than 10 years ago

② Xiao Xiao collects many action movies

③ Teaching his parents to play his flash game

④ Designing No. 8 flash for his Xiao Xiao Series

Photos by Zhuang Jian

Where to find Xiao Xiao Series:  
flash.ting365.com  
Contact Xiao Xiao:  
www.xiaoxiaomovie.com  
xiaoxiao@xiaoxiaomovie.com

We are interested in reporting common people, their stories, their feelings. If you have any personal experiences or you know someone who have such experiences, please contact us.

We would like to help you if you have any trouble, we would like to share your happiness if you are cheerful.

Our E-mail Address is: portrait@ynet.com

Our Fax Number is: (010)65902525



By Miao Yajie

We live in an era in which people seek to maximize their time, but end up having none at all.

To write a letter with a pen, not a keyboard, for many people has become a distant memory, let alone with a writing brush. The writing brush along with ink stick, *xuan* paper and ink slab, 'four treasures of the study' (文房四宝), no longer exists in the studies of most so-called intellectuals.

People want things 'fast' not 'elegant': women have their hair cut short not for the sake of beauty but for making things less 'complicated'. So, does anybody still care about making a good writing brush? Would anybody trouble himself to sit before a table, deal with hairs of weasels, goats, and rabbits, soak his hands in lime and water all year round, sort the hairs out according to the sizes of brush, all manually, go through a more than 30-step process, to make a good writing brush?

Dai Yue Xuan(戴月轩), a brush store with 86 years of history located at Liulichang, gives us a resolute response.

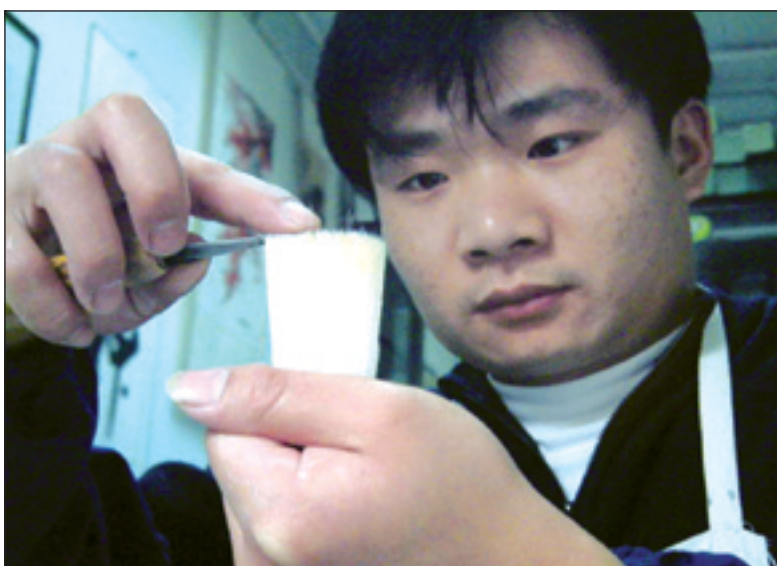
#### Chairman Mao's special brush

Each of the 'four treasures of the study' has a specific production place. For the writing brush, the Mecca is Huzhou in Zhejiang province, a two-hour train journey from the famous tourist resort of Hangzhou.

Regions south of the Yangtze River boast a galaxy of talents, so culture related industries flourished. To make *xuan* paper needs good bark, to make an ink slab needs good stone, and to make a brush needs good hair. Huzhou is rich in good quality goat's hair.

Dai Bin, styled Yuexuan, from Huzhou, the founder of Dai Yue Xuan, established his store in Beijing in 1916. He gradually gained a firm foothold in the market by diligently improving his professional skills. Many modern writers and painters such as Liang Qichao, Lu Xun, Qi Baishi were his customers.

The pride of Dai Yue Xuan lies in the fact that they used to supply writing brushes for Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai. There are still Dai Yue Xuan brushes displayed at the former study of Mao. "Chairman Mao liked brushes made of pure weasel's hair," explained Chen Peixin, manager of the store. "We provided him 20 weasel hair brushes per month."



Trimming brush hair

## The Birth of A Writing Brush

#### Making brushes requires a quiet heart

A good brush starts with good materials. First, the goat must be a Huzhou goat, which lives on mulberry leaves. The best hair is on its neck,

then its back and flank. Second, the weasel must be of the north-eastern Chinese variety. And winter weasel is the top choice. Because of the cold weather, the north-eastern weasel has longer hair than the weasel living in warmer climes; also because of the cold, the weasel sticks its tail up so the hair on the tail is not worn out. A tail of 50mm to 60mm long may cost over 100 yuan. Third, the rabbit hair used is also from the Huzhou rabbit. The usable hair on one rabbit is only 20 to 30 or 50 at most on its spine, so one gram of rabbit hair is worth about 200 yuan.

When suitable raw materials are ready, the most crucial link to determine the quality of a brush is the craftsmanship. All the steps of the process are executed purely by the two hands of the relevant artisans.

There are three main divisions: one group turns the raw material into a coarse brush; another group is responsible for trimming the head of the brush, getting rid of all unnecessary

hair, the last group takes care of the inscriptions on the shaft. Usually an artisan only knows the skills of his own division. Because of the trade rules, the hard-ship involved in grasping all the skills of one division, and also the diligence of the individual, means that some elderly artisans who work twenty or thirty years in Dai Yue Xuan are unable to finish one brush on their own.



Combing brush hair

Photos by Chen Shuyi

But there are always exceptions. Li Houxian, who makes brushes on the spot in the store, is among one of them.

27-year-old Li has been in the business for ten years. He undertook an apprenticeship in his hometown in Shandong province for two years. Then he came to Beijing to study under the guidance of two masters. This apprenticeship lasted for five years before he grasped all the skills in the three divisions, and was able to make a brush on his own satisfying both the customer and himself.



Dai Yue Xuan's oldest existing brush, made in 1928

Xiao Li said that the better the hair is, the harder it is to deal with. Many of the steps are judged by experience and the eye. For example, there is no ruler to measure the diameter of the head of the brush, so how can a craftsman be sure it fits the shaft? By eye and sensation. Sometimes the degree of precision comes within a few hairs.

Stumbling into the profession, Xiao Li said he now knows it suits him perfectly. "I tried once to do something else, to escape this highly intricate profession, but in a very short time I come back to it," said Li. "As your heart must quieten down when practicing calligraphy, so it is with making a brush."

#### Introduce brushes to kids

The brush-making industry has remained unpolluted by machines. The craft has been passed on for over 2,000 years from master to apprentice. The manual labor makes the brush itself a piece of handiwork. Some say that the sound made by the brush running on paper is like the 'sound of nature'. Unfortunately it seems the sound cannot be appreciated by the young generations.

"Our customers are mainly above 40 years old," said Chen Peixin worriedly, "There may be a break in cultural continuity in the years ahead."

Chen took his son as an example: no calligraphy class is arranged for primary school pupils, while thirty to twenty years ago when he was in school, there were two hours of calligraphy every week in class. Of course if you have enough money, you can always find teachers to teach your kids after school, but that is not the point.

Ironically, most of the youngsters who visit Dai Yue Xuan are from neighboring countries such as Japan, Korea, or Singapore.

There are art professionals and students on the Chinese mainland, but Chen said the number is too small to sustain an industry.

Meanwhile, Yu Tianying, the general manager of Dai Yue Xuan, is bothered by another issue: the circulation of fake and inferior brushes. "The market needs to be more regulated," said Yu.

There are brushes inscribed with 'pure weasel hair' in all brush stores, with prices starting from 20 to 50 yuan, only one eighth to one third of Dai Yue Xuan's price for the same size of brush. But they are not made purely with weasel hair. Some use dyed rabbit hair, ox hair and add nylon for elasticity. Dai Yue Xuan dares to promise that their pure weasel hair brush is without a single other hair.

"Sometimes customers don't have the professional knowledge to tell good brushes from bad; that hurts the merit of both themselves and our brand," said Yu. "A good product deserves fair prices."

Address: 73, East street, Liulichang, Xuanwu District (琉璃厂东街73号)

Open: 9:00am-6:00pm (Monday-Sunday)

## An Eye for Antiques

By Xuan Zhang

Are you a frequenter of curio markets? Has any of your treasured collection turned out to be a one hundred percent fake? Do you want to know the value of your Chinese antiques?

For collectors, no matter how plentiful their capital, no matter what they prefer to buy, the answers to the above three questions are a definite yes. No wonder people come all the way to the Antique City every Wednesday and Saturday, to see 78-year-old Sun Xuehai, member of the National Connoisseur Committee, and consultant of Beijing Municipal Cultural Relics Bureau, determine the authenticity of antiques on the spot for curio lovers.

People begin their journey to search for antiques with different backgrounds and for different reasons. And pure love for culture is one of the most popular reasons. Love is always a good thing, but not blind love. Blind love between man and woman bears no fruit, blind love between man and antiques results in a meaningless waste of money.

Li Zhaorun, who came to Sun last Saturday from his home near Tsinghua University just started his hobby this way. At first Li's interest was porcelain. He knew he should read books on the subject, but unfortunately he didn't. What he didn't know was that there are so many crooks in the business. He spent lots of money on yesterday-made porcelain masquerading as Qing, Ming and even Yuan pieces before he bought books to inform himself.

"But without a teacher to consult with, it is too hard," Li said. Later he dropped the heart-breaking porcelain and turned carefully to jade by first reading books. Now he only buys from relatives and friends, and never trusts dealers anymore.

He brought a set of jade belt decorations for authentication, all together 12 pieces, each with a minority figure on it. He obtained the set from a relative for 6,500 yuan. He thought it could be dated back to the Song

Dynasty (960-1279).

"The figures are typical Tang (618-907) style," said Sun after a few seconds' careful examination. "Usually people can only get one or two pieces, 12 pieces from one belt are rarely seen. If it's from the Tang, it would be worth several hundred thousand yuan."

Sun held the pieces of jade one after another in his hand, felt the nature of the jade, and evaluated the strokes of the figures. "Pretty good," he said finally, "but it's not that old, probably up to Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)."

"But it worth the price," he added.

Many people like Li Zhaorun came to Sun to see whether their collection is genuine or fake, or whether they are worth keeping, and some came to him for

an indication of the proper price to sell, Sun explained. Since he began regular on-the-spot evaluation last month, he has seen only a few good things, and most of the objects are fairly mediocre. If he encounters a fake, he tells the collector directly so that they can learn something, thus, next time when they buy they won't make the same mistake.

To read books first is important: one has to acquire a basic knowledge of history, culture, society and customs. Starting as an apprentice during his teenage years to an expert, Sun said that experience or 'actual combat' is more important. By going to the Palace Museum and History Museum for masterpieces,

and by learning from each object, by asking for advice from experts, people would gradually sharpen their eyes.

The beauty of antique collecting doesn't lie in the value of the article itself, or in whether it will be revalued soon, the enjoyment lies in whether we learn anything or not.

Place: 1F, Market Department, Antique City (21, Dongsanhuan Nanlu (东三环南路21号北京古玩城一楼市场部)

Time: Wed, 9:30am-12:00pm; Sat, 1:30pm-4:00pm

Authentication Fee: 50 yuan Website: www.antiquecity.com.cn



Li's jade belt decoration



Photos by Xuan Zhang

## 旅游 · 度假 · 休闲

TEL: 68997124 68311626

### pick up your Walnuts on the Xiangshuihu Great Wall

Great Wall, Ancient Mountain, Cleat Spring, Flying Waterfall. join us to the Xiangshuihu Great Wall, you will see all the above scenery. Xiangshuihu locates at the west part of Mutianyu Huairou. Besides the lots interesting place, it also has a folurish orchard with apple, date, pear, walnut, chestnut, grape, edible wild herbs. From August 25 to October, Xiangshuihu will have a special activity "Visit Great Wall, pick Up Fruits". Call now: 010-61631085 61632539 61631588 Take bus: No.916at Dongzhimen Web site: www.Xiangshuihu.com



## 友谊宾馆康乐部

The Friendship Hotel Recreation Center

The outdoor swimming pool of the Friendship Hotel is one of the highest standard swimming pools of Beijing. The swimming pool is equipped with 7-meter diving platforms and delicate diving boards. The strict sterilization measures and the circulation system ensure the water is always clean. Morning opening 6:30-8:30 RMB30/day, RMB400/month, and RMB1000/quarter. Tel: 68499696



友谊宾馆室外泳池是北京市国际高标准泳池,配有7米的跳台和精巧的跳板,严格的消毒措施和水循环系统,使其永远具有碧蓝的水质。早场:6:00-8:30, 30元/天,400元/月,1000元/季度。咨询电话:68499696

## 彼岸潜水俱乐部 欢迎您

The Other Side (Bi'an) Diving Club

The club provides the sports fans with professional service besides fun and coolness in the hot summer. Adopting sophisticated foreign training textbooks and equipment, the club provides professional training such as the swimming and diving courses and organizes diving tours home and abroad. With the internationally accepted training method, it takes the trainee only 20 hours to get the CMAS diving certificate which is acknowledged all over the world. The trainees have free and flexible choice as to the training time. The swimming course consists of elementary level, improving level, advanced level, honored guest class and the class paid by the hour. Swimming and diving summer camp. Sign up now! Time for the opening of the courses: the early April. The trainee can begin the course on signing up at any time. The summer courses begin on 1 June. Course time: 9:00-20:00, 7 days a week. Time for signing up: 9:00-21:00, 7 days a week. Place for signing up: The Professional Club of the Friendship Hotel (No. 3, Baishiqiao Road, Haidian District, 200 meters south of Renmin University).

Take buses no. 320, 804, 302 or Yuntong buses no. 104, 105, 205, 106 and get off at Shuang'an Shangchang stop. Or take bus no. 811 or Te 6 and get off at Renming Daxue stop.



北京彼岸潜水俱乐部是一家专门为体育爱好者提供专业服务的运动休闲俱乐部。在这里您会享受一个清凉的夏季,最佳的心情,您将获得一些专业训练,优质的服务。俱乐部拥有国际最先进的潜水器材和装备,开设了潜水理论和潜水实践,同时全年组织到全国各地和世界各地进行潜水旅游。用真正与国际接轨的教学方法使学员经过二十小时的学习即可获得国际通用的CMAS潜水证书。学员可根据自己的空闲时间选择上课时间。游泳课程设置为初、中、高级、提高班、精英班、定制班。暑期开办游泳潜水夏令营,即日起报名。开课时间:4月初开班,随报随学,6月1日开夏季班,全天训练。授课时间:每日9:00-20:00(周六、日不休息)。报名时间:每日9:00-21:00(周末不休)。报名地点:友谊宾馆康乐部(海淀区白石桥路3号,人民大学向南200米)。报名电话:68713790 68713791 68498613 传真:68713790 乘车路线:运通104、105、205、106、320、804路,302路双安商场下车;811、特6路人民大学下车



汇中颐园——距离城区最近的具有中国古典式建筑风格的商务会所,位于东三环南端,毗邻京瑞饭店、潘家园古玩城,距离CBD驱车10分钟的路程,它不仅拥有古色典雅的餐厅,而且涵盖了六个风格各异、功能不同的四合院。

餐厅“养生堂”诚邀五星级饭店厨师加盟,主理养生餐、新派粤菜。餐厅可同时容纳三百余人就餐。东西两侧十四间包房风格各异,演出效果极佳的中央舞台巨大的京剧脸谱烘托出整个大厅浓郁的传统文脉氛围。与中央电视台合作为十一频道《戏迷俱乐部》栏目提供了录制场地。

汲雅斋为书画院,由汇中颐园与中国书画家联谊会合办,其既可以举行各种展览和笔会,也可以供爱好者低价收藏名人字画及明清家具真品。

鼎盛阁,其装饰以中国古文化为底蕴,有记载中医学基础的《黄帝内经》,也有《聊斋志异》中的《小翠》,是商务会议及宴请的良好场所。

茗茶居为茶园,其包房有皇家式、农家式、日式等不同风格。古玩、玉器、灶台、腊肉、点缀其间。置身于此,品茗论道,其乐无穷。

颐生堂汇中颐园与中国中医研究院合作的养生健康咨询中心,有中医保健、药浴等服务项目,同时为会员建立健康卡。

汇中颐园——都市中的世外桃源。全体员工真诚期待您的光临!

电话(TEL):67320035,67322002-209 传真(FAX):67320017





I was once a phenomenon! So says Han Han in the preface of his third book *Boy, Chaaarging through the Wind*.

Just published by Writer's Publishing House this month, 300,000 copies of Han's latest novel have been sold so far, while pirated and fake versions have also appeared, says Yuan Min, editor of the book.

Like his first two books, *Boy, Chaaarging through the Wind* has not only brought Han Han huge fame and a vast income, but has also aroused a storm in people's thoughts. This is known as the 'Han Han Phenomenon'.

Han Han became a famous cultural phenomenon in the year 2000. Within merely a year, the 17-year-old young boy won fame and fortune with his maiden work *Three Gates*, a long novel about school. At almost the same time, he dropped out of school after failing seven subjects the second time after being put down a grade once already.

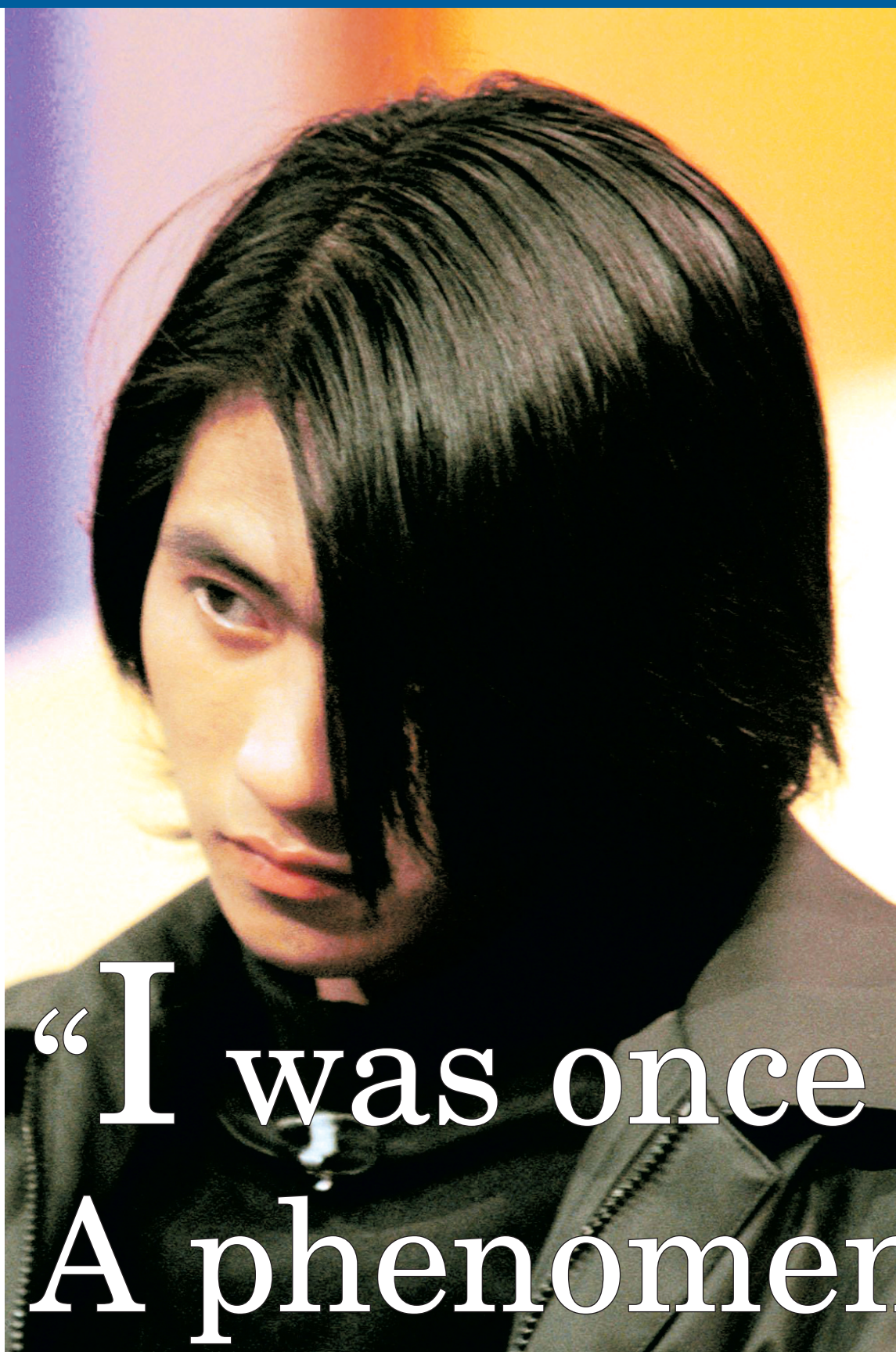
Han Han's sharp criticism on the present educational system and his bold action of giving up education has caused controversy as to whether the present educational system is suited to some special students who are talented in just one area, or whether Han Han is just a lovable genius for other young people to emulate.

On the other hand, many adults just take him as a problem boy with some gifts, and worry for his future. The mostly heard comment is that if high technology and information technology rule our age, then someone believing that the mere basics of mathematics, physics and chemistry combined with a talent for writing are enough is at best naive, at worst ridiculous.

As others passionately discuss the 'Han Han Phenomenon', the young man himself appears as an onlooker. "Such argument is of no meaning. No one is able to change anyone else," Han Han says. Just taking writing as a present career to make a life, Han refuses to make plans for the future. Anything is possible but everything is unpredictable: that is his reply to people.

By Shi Xinyu

Here is a novel about a young man's growth; ironic, witty and sophisticated.  
**Boy, Chaaarging through the Wind**  
《像少年啦飞驰》  
By Han Han 韩寒  
Pblished by  
China Writer's Publishing  
House in January 2002  
Price: RMB16



#### Extracts from *Boy, Chaaarging through the Wind:* 100

In a word, I am utterly disappointed about this place. Since I was aware of my sensibility, I became despondent about every school where I received education. It is even more depressing that I was always full of hope for those schools before I attended them.

101

No matter from where or when I graduated, I could never sense the reluctance, as depicted in some radio programs, in parting with old classmates. Those crying their eyes out or those bitterly sorrowful at the time of graduation seem nutty to me. My conclusion is that those guys must have experienced nothing, or must be incapable of enduring anything more to such an extent that they are uncomfortable when a form disintegrates while the individuals that made that form still exist.

viduals that made that form still exist.

The alleged farewell is actually nothing but a class ruled by a teacher disintegrating. But those teachers still remain there unchanged. But we won't see the difficult, disliked students any more. So the farewell should be something congratulatory. As for others, we continue to court those we like and give those we hate a good dressing down. Nothing is affected. As for the records we wrote of our classmates, they are in fact thoroughly deceptive. Once I read a record of my friend's and it seemed that a gang of guys was writing laments for each other.

182

Recently I have been indulging in refitting cars and I even set up a store with my friends providing a refitting service. We all prefer cars. A good car is safer than a woman. For example, the car will not desert you with the excuse that she has found a new master. She will not spend 30 minutes applying lipstick on her bonnet when you have to leave in an emergency. She will not say that she is in her period and cannot start out the otherwise coziness of driving when you are in need. When another martial jeep passes by, she will not get so excited that she cannot shut down even upon arriving at home. Problems like skidding will not happen to her when you drive violently. She will not demand you to alter her color every two or three



Photo by Cui Jun

#### Preface to *Boy, Chaaarging through the Wind*

I spent roughly one year writing these hundred thousand words. I wrote intermittently and sometimes I even forgot what I had already completed. In that case, I had to skip and alternatively started to tell another story. All this has nothing to do whatsoever with narrative style or literary skill; instead, they are merely attributed to my idleness. I must make this point clear here in case some experts or great authorities say something unintelligent in the future.

Just one year ago, I was a phenomenon. Then many others strove to create some phenomena after me. Actually, I had not meant that at all. I would rather do something instead of just arguing all the time. Such argument has no meaning. No one is able to change anyone else.

The *Three Gates* is a book to which I had devoted most of my energy. I will not allow those so-called specialists, professors, authoritative scholars or anyone else like them to make any comments before they read it. That gang of people is really something. They are able to analyze the book clearly and logically without reading it at all. Such ability might be due to the 'ad-

vanced education' they received.

After the publication of the *Three Gates*, many pirated and fake versions have appeared, such as *Out of the Three Gates*, *Three Gates II*, *Vitality*. I do not strongly oppose people pirating my books. I merely wish that they would show respect to the original book and pirate with some principles. For instance, please avoid interrupted or discontinuous pages or putting others' labor under my name. Also I wish they could laser scan the whole book instead of retyping and reprinting so that errors could be avoided. We usually say the thief also has his ethics, which means that piracy should also have its professional morality. You have won a huge profit overnight; why not spend a little more effort and time?

This is the third book I wrote.

I also want to say that I am not that kind of so-called 'cynical youth'. Apart from sometimes looking at the prices of cars I like and then comparing them with the international market, actually I seldom complain. I am just doing what I like. I do not think it necessary for anyone else to give me directions.

—Han Han  
(Translated by Zhang Wei)



Picture of Han Han, Provided by PHOTOCOME

days refusing otherwise to go into the street. She will not require the sole use of Shell claiming otherwise to be insufficiently lubricated. She will not slap you in the face when you inadvertently pull the cylinder. All you need to do is spend some money purchasing her; then give her some maintenance every five kilometers driving instead of one hour every morning and changing the machine oil filter; the petrol filter, as well as the air filter. You also just need to change several spark plugs every 20,000 kilometers, and the brake oil for the shock absorber every 30,000 kilometers. After 40,000 kilometers, you need to change the brake pads and examine the brake disks. After 60,000 kilometers, you need to change the brake disks and the brake drums; after 80,000 kilometers, the tires and finally after 100,000 kilometers, sell it as a secondhand car.

(Translated by Zhang Wei)

**MEIAO**  
美奥劳务服务有限公司  
MEI AO LABOR SERVICE CO., LTD

美奥保洁

营造现代人的清新生活空间

愿我们诚实守信精益求精的"美奥人"为您营造出清新美好的生活空间。  
装备精良的专业进口设备, 高水平、规范化的优质服务队伍

#### 家居保洁

家庭开荒: 新居入住前的清理、除垢、灭菌、清洗及去污。  
家庭定期、不定期除尘除垢、去污、清斑迹, 厨房、卫生间及各种地面的养护、打蜡、翻新。

#### 商业保洁

面向机关、饭店、写字楼、商厦、医疗机构、社区、超市等大型物业, 提供长期、定期的保洁清洗服务。

#### 地毯清洗

各种地毯的清洗去斑及养护

Wish we were honest and faithful. Meiao man seeking for greater perfection gives you delightfully fresh living space.

Professional import facilities with excellent kit, high quality service staffs with high level and standardization.

#### House keeping:

Cleaning defecating sterilizing for new residence.

Floor maintaining, face-lifting polishing in kitchen and toilet.

#### Commercial preserves:

Service for offices, hotels, business buildings, hospitals communities, super markets, etc.

#### Carpet cleaning:

Cleaning and maintenance for all kinds of carpet.





By Shi Xinyu

Zhuo Shunguo, the GM of Beijing Forbidden City & Trinity Pictures, confirms that its A-G (Avant-garde) Arts Film Project is suffering a freezing winter mainly due to inappropriate operating methods.

**What's going on?**

Only one member of staff has remained in the project, and with no more prospective films in hand, the slender box income cannot even cover the expenses of purchasing film copies, "I do not know how long the project can last," said Xu Wen, one of the former A-G Arts Film Project managers who resigned last Friday.

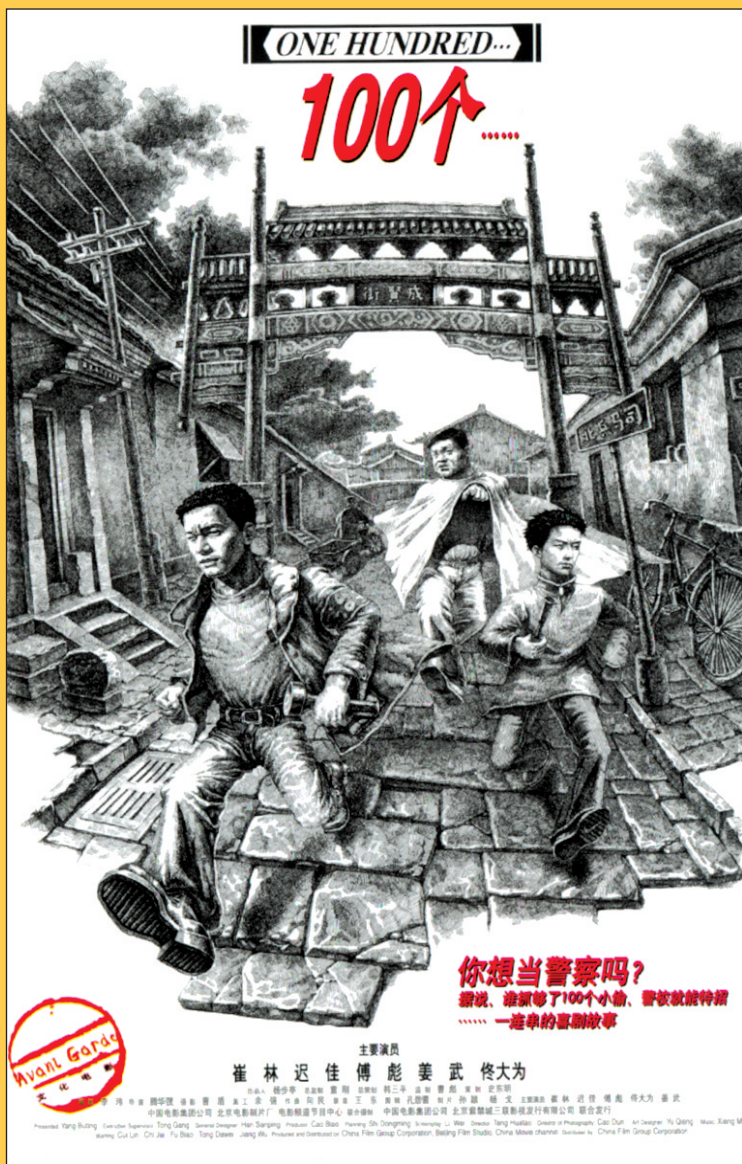
A direct outcome of this dire situation is the complaints from member cinemas. 70% to 80% vacant seats in every projecting hall from the beginning till now give them reasons to doubt whether the Beijing Forbidden City & Trinity Pictures properly performed its contracted role of promotion. "I received complaints' calls from cinemas almost everyday and had to explain to them that time and time again nothing proved effective," said Xu, "Whether they were convinced or not, the low box records must have hurt the cinemas' profits and made other cinemas draw back from being our members."

**What's wrong?**

Initiated last September, A-G Arts Film Project is the first attempt in China to separate arts films from popular ones. Now it owns 13 member cinemas throughout China, among which, Da Hua and Xin Dong'an are in Beijing, and has presented three films: *Lunar Eclipse*, *Postman in the Mountains*, and *One Hundred*.

As Zhuo Shunguo says, the purpose of the project is

# Arts Films STRUGGLE FOR AIR



Poster of 'One Hundred'

Photo provided by Xu Wen

to "give cinemagoers opportunities to watch non-mainstream films rarely seen". Since most of the films are low-cost productions and are not made to appeal to all kinds of people, the Beijing Forbidden City & Trinity Pictures felt it was unnecessary to spend much money and energy on their promotion. "We expected the films could advertise by themselves among arts film fans," Zhuo says. "But things did not go as well as we had expected."

Attracting low box office ratings and limited membership, along with the drying up of available films finally led the project into a vicious circle. "All directors and producers expect their films to bring them fame or fortune or both," said Zhuo Shunguo, "And the first way to achieve that goal is to bring their films closer to a wider range of audiences. So that's it: now they are doubting our releasing capacity and are not willing to give their films to us."

**What's next?**

Presently the A-G Arts Film Project is still running by lengthening the screening time of *Postman in the Mountains* and *One Hundred*. Beijing Forbidden City & Trinity Pictures has no plans to give up in the near future. "Anyway, having something is better than nothing," Zhuo concludes.

The reliable average of 20%-30% punters and a few fans' enthusiastic comments after seeing the films reveal that these arts films do have their own share in the current market. It is the unprofessional management system that is pushing the A-G Arts Film Project into a crisis. So whether the project will survive the freezing winter depends mainly on what measures the Beijing Forbidden City & Trinity Pictures will take to warm things up.

# Did I Confess?



Photo by Sun Biao

By Zhu Lin

*Death and the Maiden*, a chilling drama on stage at the Mini Theater of the People's Art Theater until January 20 has pounded the hearts of Chinese audiences by its uncompromising plunge into the soul.

Written by Chilean author Ariel Dorfman, the story takes an unusual approach to political atrocities. Paulina is housewife to a prominent lawyer in South America. One day her husband rides home with Dr. Miranda, a stranger he meets on the way home. She is convinced that he was part of the old fascist regime that tortured and raped her while blindfolded fifteen years ago during the country's dictatorship. Paulina takes him captive to determine the 'truth'. She refuses to let him go until he confesses his crime to her.

Dorfman wrote the play after his country won back democracy in 1990. "Only after showing the pain and tragedy stored at the bottom of our hearts, will we be able to strengthen our democracy," he emphasized.

## Blue Romance Gains Double Honor

By Zhu Lin

*Blue Romance*, the concert performed at the Poly Theater, did extremely well at the box office, winning the thumbs up from audiences.

After an investment of three million yuan, the concert has already gained four million yuan in takings from January 11 to 18. This robust profit of one million yuan is equivalent to the total profit from last year of the performing company, Oriental Song & Dance Ensemble.

The concert displays an impressive variety. The exotic taste of Irish dance, tap dance and Indian dance caught the audiences' eye. "We consider the audience from every aspect to make the concert more interesting," said Tian Junli, director of the ensemble, "We intend to cause a visual impact every eight minutes."



Photo by Cui Jun

## 美食 · 娱乐 · 休闲 TEL: 68997124 68311626

**ZiyiXuan Baochi Lou****紫怡轩鲍翅楼**

3rd Floor Building B,  
Donghuan Guangchang,  
29 Dongzhong jie,  
Dongcheng District  
东城区东中街 29 号东环广场 B 幢 3 层  
11:00-14:30, 17:00-22:00  
6856.9388

**Beijing Roast Duck  
北京烤鸭店**

Building 3, Tuanjie Lake, Chaoyang District  
朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼  
11:40-14:00, 17:00-21:30  
6852.4003

**Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant  
便宜坊**

2A Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District  
崇文区崇文门大街甲 2 号  
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30  
Tel: 6712.0505

## CLUB GREEN

**BEST CLUB IN BEIJING**

ADD: Land mark Tower 1/F 8 North Dong San  
Huan Road. chaoyang District Beijing

地址: 北京市朝阳区东三环北路 8 号亮马河  
大厦一层

TEL: (010) 65906999 65906688 — 2988

COME & BE AS COOL AS —  
GREEN



## 北京好世界阳光酒店 BEIJING FANTASY WORLD CLUB

It offers a full range of services, including fine rooms, restaurants and entertainment centre.

FU LIN Seafood Restaurant: more than 100 kinds of fresh seafood are now 20% off.

Korean Flavour Restaurant: newly open, supply Korean food and barbecue. 20% off.

Entertainment Centre: Bowling, billiards, karaoke and gymnasium.

Tel: (010) 68843388-718/620

Add: 1 Gu Cheng Nan Lu Shijingshan District

(100 meters in west from Gu Cheng metro station)

电话: (010) 68843388-718/620 (详见店内海报)

地址: 石景山区古城南路 1 号 (地铁古城站西 100 米)

**Donglaishun Restaurant****东来顺**

5/F, Xindong'an Plaza, Wangfujing  
Da jie, Dongcheng District  
东城区王府井大街 新东安商场 5 层  
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30  
6528.0932

**Fan Shi Gang****饭是钢**

140 Andingdajie, Dongcheng District  
东城区安定大街 140 号  
9:00-23:00  
64042187

## 北京之夜酒楼 Night of Beijing Restaurant

Special offer of seafood as well as many other dishes and salads: shrimp: RMB38; lobster / clam: RMB98

Pleasant ambience and sufficient parking space.

Address: 1 Dayabao Alley, Dongcheng District

Tel: 65272672, 65272704 ext 8865

粤菜 中华餐 商务套餐

特价海鲜: 基围虾 38 元 龙虾/象拔蚌 98 元

数十款 10 元菜及特价菜: 多款夏日清爽沙拉。

本酒楼内设多间文化厅房, 环境优雅, 备有充足车位。

地址: 东城区大雅宝胡同 1 号 电话: 65272672 65272704 转 8865

## Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant

Welcome to our Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant.

Our features are undeniable: Walls decorated in purple and deep wine red; colors that really work together to produce a harmony; food that lie on in its contrasts; chefs that create a wonderful medley of hot, cool, sour, sweet, crunchy and soft dishes. Fish cake, deep-fried Taro, Green Pepper & Red Curry Fried with Beef and Minced meat fried with Basil leaves are not to be missed.

And, we have a unique Chinese name, Tai Xiang La, which means Spicy Thai Restaurant, verbally; and Very Good Smell, phonetically.

You're likely to satisfy your taste buds for a mere of RMB18 up, with weekday set lunch from RMB25-50. Tasty and inexpensive. A very good casual dining experience.

Add: 8 South Street, Guan Dong Dian, Chaoyang District.

(North of Kerry Centre Hotel and the back of Hot-Point Disco)

Tel: 6591.7726 Fax: 6591.7926

## New French Restaurant Now Open!

来过罗兰·加洛斯吗?

不知你有没有来过罗兰·加洛斯, 有没有尝过这里鲜嫩的蜗牛, 有没有就着奶酪品味波尔多的葡萄酒, 有没有燃着古巴雪茄欣赏网球公开赛? 侍者是彬彬有礼的, 还能把每款酒, 每种烟的来由娓娓道出。氛围是典雅的, 还有温暖浪漫的烛光。

这里还有独具特色的网球文化主题服务: 专门从海外订购的网球历史文化资料, 精彩纷呈的网球主题活动和球友内部通讯, 主题网站与“一网打尽”网球网络联盟。

Spoil yourself with genuine French fare and ambience and a superb variety of wines at the **Roland Garros** restaurant. Close a full evening of relaxation with a choice of dramatic desserts, coffees, and Cuban cigars.

## ROLAND GARROS

RESTAURANT & BAR, BEIJING, CHINA

## 罗兰·加洛斯 餐厅

罗兰·加洛斯网球主题法式餐厅  
Roland Garros Restaurant  
Open: 11:00-24:00 Daily

地址: 朝阳区农展南路朝阳网球俱乐部北门一层  
Address: North Entrance Chaoyang Tennis Club  
Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District  
Telephone: 6508-9100



## Collectable Comics

By Li Dan

Children's picture-story books (Xiaorensu) are for many Chinese adults a vivid reminder of childhood. These little comic books, no bigger than a post-card, feature a picture on each page with two or three lines of text below. The content includes folk tales, literary classics, and movie stories both from home and abroad. From liberation to the late 1980s, you might be surprised to know that nearly all children in China learned to read from Xiaorensu when they were still very young. They only cost a few fen (cents) and each were frequently exchanged among children.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, publishing houses stopped publishing Xiaorensu, which had been supplanted in popularity by larger and more expensive books. Xiaorensu gradually disappeared from the scene and for a time, were almost impossible to find. However in recent years, the little comic books have attracted the attention of collectors, in particular those that were drawn by famous artists of the time.

Now these picture-story books sell for amazing prices. For example, a series of *How is the Steel Tempered* (钢铁是怎样炼成的) published before 1965 can fetch 2,000-3,000 yuan. Later editions, published in the 1970s sell for 80-100 yuan, while those published toward the end of the '80s can be picked up for 13 yuan each. Original picture

book versions of *Water Margin* (水浒), *Lu Xun in Guanzhou* (鲁迅在广州), *A Dream of Red Mansions* (红楼梦) can all bring several thousand yuan. The most valuable Xiaorensu is *The Story of Three Kingdoms* (三国演义), an ancient Chinese military novel that remains popular today. The full set of 48 books is these days worth 3,600 yuan, an extraordinary price considering that they could be bought for only several fen (cents) per book 30 or 40 years ago!

Xiaorensu are these days only found in flea markets. Panjiayuan is the biggest center for buying and selling them in Beijing. Each weekend scores of Xiaorensu enthusiasts come to scour the stalls for their favorites. It seems children now have more colorful cartoon books than in the past, but more and more adults are showing an interest in this special field. They make wonderful souvenirs of a visit to China, and you might even start your own collection. Remember, the first edition and the first printed are always the most precious.

**Where:** Panjiayuan Flea Market, turn right from the main gate to the open western market.

**Open:** 8am - 5pm, Sat & Sun.



Cover of capture and release of Cao Cao — from *The Story of Three Kingdoms*

## New Classic Style Peking Duck

By Li Dan

Peking Duck has a long history, the well-known Quanjude Peking Duck Restaurant was established more than 100 years ago; however not so many people know that there is also an old brand duck-raising farm - the Beijing Golden Star Duck Center.

Duck aficionados all know that ducks from the Beijing Golden Star Duck Center are second to none with their fleshy and tender meat. The center provides ducks to all Beijing's top Peking Duck restaurants; Quanjude (全聚德), Bianyifang (便宜坊), Jiuhuashan (九华山) and Yawang (鸭王). Now, Beijing Golden Star Duck Center has opened its own roast duck restaurant, and more and more people are finding out that there is another wonderful place to experience genuine Peking Duck, that is Qingcui Peking Duck Restaurant. The restaurant boasts the best-quality ducks, of course,



Photo by Zhuang Jian

prepared by experienced chefs, with golden roasted crispy skin. The crepes here look like the wings of a cicada and have the texture of silk. Unlike other restaurants specializing in Peking Duck, the walls of Qingcui are covered posters introducing the culture of Peking Duck and pictures of Beijing Duck, some are charmingly naive, and some are elegant and poised.

After experiencing the solemnity and quietness of the nearby

Yonghegong (Lama Temple), you might like to come here to sample some genuine Beijing Duck culture, at an unexpectedly cheap price.

**Add:** 3 Hepingdongjie (和平东街), Dongcheng District, opposite National Forestry Bureau, Qingcui Peking Roast Duck Restaurant (青萃烤鸭店). **Price:** 68 yuan/per duck. **Open:** daily, 11am - 2:30pm; 5pm - 9:30pm. **Tel:** 84224649.

## Harry Potter Hype Hits Beijing

By Jiao Pei

Harry Potter, in case you didn't know, is the young hero of four (so far) wildly popular books, the first of which has been adapted into an even more wildly popular movie. Harry is a young English wizard, who fights bravely against the forces of evil. The movie, a hugely hyped fantasy, has weaved magic in North American box offices, whipping up a record \$93.5 million in the first three days after its release.

And of course wherever there's a successful movie, merchandising is never far behind! Swedish toy manufacturer Logo reports hot sales already in Beijing of toys of the six main characters; Harry and his friends Ron and Hermione, Hagrid the groundskeeper, headmaster Albus Dumbledore and Professor Snape, as well as models of Hogwarts, the school for magic. The toys are made of plastic cement, and each one can be assembled in several different shapes. They are suitable for kids from five or six years old to over ten years old, or even grown up Harry Potter fans. The toys are not just cute to look at, they also feature special tricks, such as a magic wand that opens a treasure chest!

It is unusual for such toys to appear in Beijing in step with an international movie release. Since going on sale here, the most popular models have already sold out, however don't despair! More stock is expected by Spring Festival. As well as the characters from the movie, other toys are also available, including: The sorting hat, 75 yuan; The final battle, 115 yuan; The magic chess room, 228 yuan; The classroom of Professor Snape (sold out!); The forbidden corridor, 375 yuan; The small house of Hagrid, 375 yuan; Also Hogwarts School of Magic, 988 yuan, the Hogwarts Express, 568 yuan.

**Add:** the Lufthansa Shopping City, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **Open:** 9am - 10pm. **Tel:** 64651188-218.



Photo by Qu Liyan

## China Street - China Trend

By Li Dan

An east wind has been blowing in the international fashion world in recent years, with not only foreign stars and famous models embracing Chinese styles, but also Chinese people themselves harkening back to olden times in the way they dress. Chinese style clothing adds happiness to Spring and Mid Autumn

Festivals and weddings, and is always eye-catching at parties, and traditional Chinese furniture is also becoming more and more popular.

It is not hard to find traditional Chinese products all over Beijing, but you might have to do a lot of walking, or spend a lot of time stuck in traffic jams to find all you are looking for. China Street at Guomao (China World Trade Center) boasts some ten individual stores. They all feature a strong traditional Chinese sense, but each has its individual and distinctive theme. These stores' decor and products demonstrate the owners' understanding of and enthusiasm for Chinese culture. Each product tells a story, each detail touches the heart. Take Chinese clothing as an example. There are many brands here, like simple but elegant Mysterious Garments, classical Solo, fashionable Dream Weaver, east meets west at Tian Art and Yan Bing Bing and reserved Shanghai Xu. Some of the stores have custom-tailors to ensure a perfect fit.

To give your living room a more Chinese flavor, you might visit Zhang's Textiles for late Qing Dynasty embroidered pieces and for old furniture from the post-1911 period. You can also discuss with the owner your personal understanding of Chinese culture. In Huangjin Homesilk, specializing in royal-style silk decorations for bed, dining and living room, you can decorate your room in gorgeous traditional Chinese style, but maintain a modern feel.

**Add:** near the skating rink, China World Shopping Mall, China World Trade Center (take bus 1, 4, 57, 28, 48, 9 or subway to Guomao). **Tel:** 65052288 ext 80201.



Photo by Chen Shuyi

### International Shopping at The Palace Hotel Arcade

Six new shops are soon to open, two of which will be their company's first and only store in China: Tiffany & Co and Piaget; plus the flagship stores of Cartier, Christian Dior and Prada; as well as a new Davidoff shop. **Tel:** 65126192.

### 2nd Chaoyang Shopping Festival

Famous national clothing brands gather in Beijing to

welcome the arrival of Spring Festival, with far lower prices than usual. **Where:** China World Trade Center. **When:** till Feb 5. **Tel:** 65052288 ext 85284.

### Beijing Lufthansa Friend-ship Shopping City (燕莎)

The imminent Spring Festival will bring a brand new year, the year of the horse. The shopping center especially presents a series



products related to the image of the horse, including decos, works of art, gifts, jewelries, clothes and toys. **When:** till Spring Festival. **Tel:** 64651851.

### Guiyou Shopping Mall (贵友)

A month-long Treasure Hunt. Nearly ten thousand designs of jewelry and accessories are on sale at unprecedented prices. Gold 80 yuan/per gram. ChowTaiFook,

15%. **When:** Jan 18-Feb 18. Kuuki 30-50%, Beirm, Julio 30-60%, Roma 20-40%, Romaster 30%, Lozio 20-60%, Sierli 40%, Bluzzi-Dress 35-70% and more. **When:** Jan 18-Jan 20, weekends. **Tel:** 85629122.

### ItoYokado (华堂)

There will be traditional performances to give an eye-opener to Chinese folk culture. **Where:** bus112, 115 to Shilipu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Jan 20, 2pm-4pm. **Tel:** 65561352 ext 1353.

## Business Service 商务服务



北京旁美广告有限公司独家代理“商务服务”专版广告。我们的宗旨是为国内的商务服务及代理机构能够和外商公平、合理地开展合作，从中起到桥梁和纽带的作用。

**BEIJING PRE-MEDIA Advertising Co., Ltd.** is the exclusive advertising agency of the Business Service page of *Beijing Today*. We will play the bridge on the cooperation between business service company of our country and foreign business.

### AD PLACE (广告内容)

- ◆ 涉外代理工商注册、税务服务、商标、专利等代理注册事宜  
Business surrogate relate to foreigner, enterprise registration, tax service, trademark, patent and copyright registration, etc.
- ◆ 商务培训、合作  
Business training and cooperation
- ◆ 国际交通运输  
International transport
- ◆ 技术、文化交流  
Technique and culture communication
- ◆ 国际招商、投资、融资  
International investigation and financing
- ◆ 商务咨询、顾问、公关、代理  
commercial consultation, public relationship and surrogate
- ◆ 商务办公会议、商务旅游  
Business meeting, office and business tour
- ◆ 商务办公设备  
Office equipment

广告刊登电话 AD.PLACE.TEL: (86) 010-88552079/80 13601226884

AD.E-mail: premedia@263.net

### BUSINESS AGENT



### 北京市商标事务所

BEIJING TRADEMARK AGENCY

TEL: 68083066 68081369  
FAX: 68081370  
地址: 北京市西城区月坛北街2号  
月坛大厦门6层  
16th Floor Yue tan Tower  
No.2 Yue Tan North Street  
Xicheng District Beijing

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### A Five-year-old Advertising company

Possess of certain marketing resource, plan to invest exhibition, design & produce. Now looking for foreign capital to joint venture and cooperation.

#### Aim

- ◆ Introducing advantage experiences and technologies from design and produce of overseas exhibitions.
  - ◆ Introducing trademark, administration and marketing promotion from overseas exhibitions vocation.
  - ◆ Introducing certain quantity capital to enlarge scale.
- Welcome to connect to us.

Tel: 13701378266

### Huiyuan Apartments

ready to rent

With high, medium and economy standard.

Broadband multi-media e-commerce net service in each flat.

Welcome your visit.

Tel: 64923528/64923529

64992660/64910545



CONSULTING  
Let us help you to extend your visa or change visa status  
Tel: 65674187  
Mobile: 13001039008 13910101133  
(San Ze synthesize Trading)  
三泽综合商社

### 北京工商事务咨询服务中心

BEIJING CONSULTING SERVICE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

业务范围: 承办国内外企业登记注册代理业务、外国企业常驻代表机构审批、登记注册的代理业务。

The center handles applications for enterprise and foreign enterprise permanent office in Beijing registration.

地址: 北京市海淀区三里河1号西苑饭店7号楼107-109室  
RMI107-109, NO.7 XIYUAN HOTEL, NO.1 SANLIHE LU, HAI DIAN, BEIJING.  
电话: 68313388 转 57107-57109 88371521 传真: 68342761 联系人: 周研、孙霞、任民

### BeiJing PRE-MEDIA Advertising Company

A well-known professioned company

We provide following services:

- ★ Market strategy, promotion and design, Boutique agency
- ★ Advertisement Management of plane Media, TV advertisement
- ★ Buying Representative

Quality service obtain honour welcome to consultation

TEL: 88552081

FAX: 88552079

MOBILE: 13601226884

E-mail: pieere@sina.com

### Konica 高品质 数字化复印机 Konica 7045



主要性能:  
\* 复印/打印速度: 45 张/分  
\* 600 X 600 dpi 输入和输出  
\* 图形用户界面  
\* 预张复印输出时间: 3.9 秒  
\* 预热时间: 少于 90 秒  
\* 32MB 标准存储器 E-RDH

#### KEY FEATURES:

- > 45 cpm/ppm
- > 600 X 600 dpi for Input & Output
- > Graphic User Interface
- > FCOT: 3.9 Seconds
- > WUT: Less than 90 Seconds
- > 32MB Standard Memory E-RDH

BEIJING ZHONGQING KONICA PRODUCTS AGENT CO., LTD

Tel: 63465432 63464797 MP: 13901151799 维修热线: 63448206 Post: 100054  
Add: Room 3A407, Pengrun Jiayuan (鹏润家园), Cathuying Cloverleaf Junction, Fengtai District, Beijing, China



# Renting an Office in Beijing

## Location

By Wang Dandan

Renting a suitable office in a foreign country is not always the easiest thing, as there are always unfamiliar rules and regulations to navigate. To make life easier for those of you in search of office space, Beijing Today has carried out a survey on the present office market in Beijing. We interviewed the managers of the office department of Jones Lang LaSalle and DTZ Debenham Tie Leung and obtained the following suggestions.

Location comes first for all companies. Let's start from the west and work our way back east, before turning north to have a look.

Generally speaking, office locations in Beijing are divided into five major areas: Financial Street, Oriental Plaza, Jianguomen and Chaoyangmen, the north east Third Ring Road and Zhongguancun.

### Financial Street

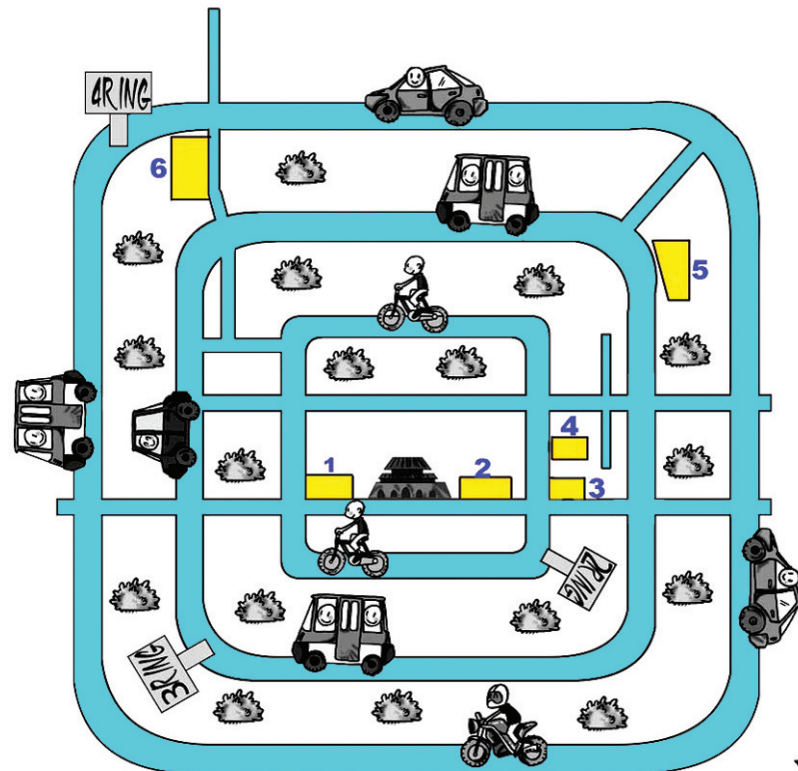
Financial street is situated near Fuxingmen in the western part of the city. As far back as the Yuan Dynasty, traditional Chinese banks gathered here. The Bank of China, formerly Qing Bank, was the first modern bank to establish its headquarters here. Year by year, many other banks followed suit, such as the Communication Bank of China, ICBC (Industrial and Commercial Bank of China).

Most of the companies in the area are insurance and accounting companies. Most of the offices here are sold rather than rented out. However, as it is relatively far from the east part of the city, where there is a concentration of foreign companies, it lacks a commercial atmosphere. There are few restaurants, hotels and entertainment facilities, however it would be a suitable location if your business deals primarily with Chinese financial organizations.

The average rental price in the area is about US\$35 per square meter per month. Public transportation is convenient as it is near the subway and Chang'an Avenue.

### Oriental Plaza (Wangfujing)

Oriental Plaza marks the dividing line of east and west Beijing. It is located in the very heart of the city, near Tian'anmen



Picture by Liu Yang

1. Financial Street
2. Oriental Plaza
3. Jianguomen
4. Chaoyangmen
5. Lufthansa Area
6. Zhongguancun

Square and Wangfujing Shopping Street. The facilities in the vicinity are sufficient for any entertainment.

However, as it is located on the northern side of Chang'an Avenue, it is a little difficult entering it if approaching from the west. It is near the Beijing Hotel, which often hosts official activities, so traffic may occasionally be a problem.

Cisco and Lucent have rented over 10,000 square meters each in the building. It is one of the few A grade office buildings in Beijing that has spare space for extended office area.

The average price here is \$28-25 per

square meter per month.

### Jianguomen and Chaoyangmen Area

Office building construction first started here at Xiushui (Silk Market) Street, around the First Embassy District. The World Trade Tower is among the earliest office buildings in the place. Other buildings around Jianguomen came next and buildings around Chaoyangmen followed.

Many foreign companies are centered here, including foreign banks, and the choice of which building you rent in really depends on your budget. Companies renting office space here include Harvest Fund Management, Thyssenkrupp and Warner Brothers /

American online.

China Resources Building, located in the north-western corner of Jianguomen Qiao, is one of the top-level office buildings in terms of hardware. Traffic can be a problem during rush hour, however there is always the subway. Fulllink Plaza is a nearby alternative to the north. Traffic also gets congested around the Kerry Center, and it is a little further from the subway. Prices range from about \$28-35 per square meter per month.

### East Third Ring Road

Lufthansa area, at the northern end of the east Third Ring Road, is one of the earliest to build top-level office buildings in Beijing. The place is a concentration of office buildings, shopping centers and hotels.

Because it is near the Second Embassy District and the currently under construction Third Embassy District, office buildings here are nearly all rented by foreign companies.

Sun Tower is a popular choice. It is located near Sanyuanqiao. Millennium Tower, on the northern side of Liangmaqiao, and enjoys good traffic. It is also close to Sanlitun Bar Street, an area popular with expatriates. The average price is \$25 per square meter per month. Traffic is convenient and it is near the airport expressway, however there is no subway.

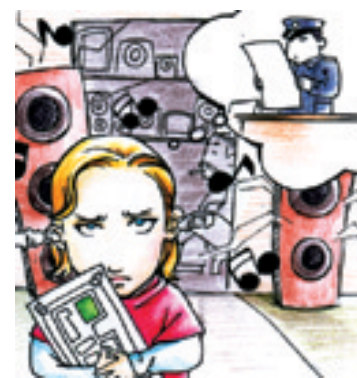
### Zhongguancun

The Municipal Government is promoting this area as China's Silicon Valley and offers some priorities. Most domestic IT companies are gathered here, and some international companies such as Microsoft have also set up business here. However, as there are many new office buildings under construction, traffic is more or less a problem.

The newly established top-grade office buildings are Raycom Infotech Park Tower, Cyber Tower and Tsinghua Tongfang Hi-tech Plaza (for sale only). The average rent is about \$15 per square meter per month.

### Note:

As traffic remains a problem in Beijing, especially during rush hours, renting an office close to a subway station is advisable. Parking space should be available and easily accessible.



## Music All Day & Night

By Wang Dandan / Yan Ming

Natalie bought a house in Chaoyang District. The computer image in the promotional material showed a very good picture of the community, lawn, swimming pool and fitness facilities. In case of any future problems, Natellie attached the computer image to the contract.

However, after the project was completed and she moved into the house, she found out that in the place where the swimming pool was supposed to be, was the property management office, and furthermore, these rooms were rented out. One had been rented to a music shop that constantly played loud music.

Natellie wants to reject the house but was refused. She was so surprised because she had already attached the computer image to the contract, and it was the developer who changed the plan.

She was then told by the court that the computer image could not stand as evidence, as it had not been notarized.

Xu Chendi, a lawyer with Zhongsheng Law Firm, suggests that purchasers should attach a notarized copy of the blueprint to the contract.

MB  
Message Board

By Wang Dandan

### Chinese New Year discounts at 16 Shangri-la hotels in China

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts has launched its Chinese New Year promotion at all of its 16 properties in 13 cities across China. From February 8 to 16, there are savings of up to 60% at Shangri-La and Traders hotels. For 588 yuan, guests can enjoy a super deluxe room at the Kerry Centre Hotel, Beijing.

### Jones Lang will handle leases for Microsoft

Jones Lang LaSalle has announced it has been selected by Microsoft as its preferred worldwide provider of real estate transaction and project management services. Specifically, Jones Lang LaSalle will manage Microsoft's lease acquisitions, dispositions and renewals, as well as supervise the build-out of interior field office space.

### Hilton announces partnership with Air China Companion Frequent Flyer Program

Hilton Hotels has announced a landmark agreement with Air China to enter into partnership with China's leading carrier, allowing cross participation in Hilton Honors, Hilton's guest reward program and Air China Companion Club. This agreement, commencing February 2002, gives members of the Air China Companion Program an opportunity to earn Air China kilometers by staying at Hilton hotels.

**"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback:** What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with? Our E-mail: housing@ynet.com  
Tel: 65902522  
Fax: 65902525



## What if You Lose The Contract?

By Wang Dandan

Dear Editor: I bought an apartment in Chaoyang District last year, however, I have lost my copy of the purchasing contract. I heard that it is impossible to get the property right if the purchasing contract is lost. If so, what should I do?

### Dear Reader:

The purchasing contract is the legal proof that you have purchased the apartment. A complete purchasing contract should have four copies: Two for the developer, one for the real estate bureau and one for the purchaser. If you bought the apartment with a bank loan, then your contract should be held by the bank until you pay off your mortgage.

With these four copies, the developer or the purchaser can go to the real estate bureau to get the property right certificate.

If the purchaser loses his or her contract, they must go through one of the following procedures.

1. When the purchaser loses the contract, and the developer has not yet registered the purchasing contract at the real estate bureau, the purchaser only needs to pay for the replacement of the document and sign a new contract. About 200 yuan for one copy.

2. When the purchaser loses the contract after registration at the real estate bureau, but before the procedure of getting the bank loan, the purchaser will publish an announcement of "cancellation of the purchasing contract"



Pictures by Yao Ming

tion of the purchasing contract" in the newspaper. Three months after this, the purchaser should take the newspaper carrying the notice to the real estate bureau to log out the lost contract. They can then sign a new one with the developer and register it at the real estate bureau.

The purchaser has to pay the fees for the newspaper announcement, document costs and stamp fees for the new contract.

3. If the purchaser loses the contract after registration at the real estate bureau and completing the bank loan procedures, they must go through the steps outlined in 2 above, and then resign the contract with the bank and mortgage the new contract there, canceling the old one.

The developer and bank may also lose the contract, so on delivery of the contract to the other side, make sure that they give you a written certificate stating that they have received the contract.

## Whom Do You Deal with When Buying a Second-hand Apartment?

By Wang Yang

### Real estate agency

Before you entrust an agency you have to be sure about: What kind of service do they provide? Do they help you to apply for the bank loan? If there is any problem during the deal, will they compensate for the loss? How much commission do they charge? Can you trust them?

The service charge should be 0.3% - 0.5% of the total price of the house. And you'd better choose an agency with a certificate approved by the Beijing Real Estate Bureau and an Operation License approved by the Beijing Industrial and Commercial Bureau.

### Law firm

Lawyers help you to draft the



contract, hold negotiations, polish the contract, check that the seller has paid the property management fees and other related fees and check the buyer's credibility. There is no set standard regarding how much a lawyer should charge, but their fee should be around 1% of the total price.

### Evaluation firm

When both sides report the selling price of the house to the Beijing Real Estate Bureau, and the bureau figures that the price is much lower than it should be, it will entrust an evaluation firm to re-evaluate the house. And the re-evaluated price will be the final one on the basis of which the tax will be charged.

The service fee is charged at different standards: if the price is under 1 million yuan, the fee will be 0.5%. If it is over one million, it should be negotiated.

### Beijing Notarial Organization

The notarization includes: the notarization of the purchasing and selling contract and additional agreements; assessment of the seller's credibility; assessment of the buyer's credibility and notarization of the mortgage contract with the bank.

The service fee is different for different documents.

### Insurance organization

This is for compensation in case the apartment suffers any natural damage or accidental disaster.

## Office Prices

### China Life Tower:

Rent: US\$45/month/sqm(net)

Location: Chaoyangmenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District. 100 meters from Chaoyangmen subway station.

### China Resources Building:

Rent: US\$36.8-38.8/month/sqm

Location: Jianguomen North Avenue, Dongcheng District.

### CITIC Building:

Rent: US\$36/month/sqm(net)

Location: Jianguomenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District. Located in east part of Chang'an Avenue, with International Club on its west across the street, and the Embassy District on its south.

### The Exchange Beijing:

Rent: US\$29.5/month/sqm

Location: Dongsanhuannan Road, Chaoyang District. Located at the intersection of Jianguomen

enwai Avenue and East Third Ring Road. Located near the Guomao Subway Station.

### Towercrest Plaza:

Rent: US\$20-23/month/sqm

Location: Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. The Beijing International Airport remains a ten minutes' drive.

### Continental Building:

Rent: US\$19/month/sqm

Location: Gulouwai Street, Dongcheng District. Located between North Second Ring Road and North Third Ring Road.

The above prices are quoted prices and may be subject to change.

DTZ Debenham Tie Leung provides the above information. For further information, please go to

www.dtz.com

www.dtz.bj.cn

Email: residential@dtz.bj.cn



## Activities

## Foreigners Singing Chinese Songs Contest

Foreigners desperate to display some form of talent can sing till their lungs pop, or until the cane comes out to pull them off the stage. This year, the contest will include as well as singing, crosstalk, calligraphy, painting, traditional opera, comic sketches, martial arts and acrobatics. Initial selection: till Jan. 20. Intermediary contest: Jan. 26-27. Finals: Live on BTV Feb. 8, 9 & 10. **Tel:** 68429608.

## Beijing Hash House Harriers - The Drinking Club With a Running Problem

Once a week Hashers in Beijing meet for a run and an "after the run" meal. The tradition started in 1982. The Hashers follow a trail previously set by the "Hares". The idea for hashing in Beijing is to have fun, meet new people, and see different parts of Beijing and its surroundings. All while getting some exercise.

## Upcoming Events

Quick Draw & Ratchucker, Mexican wave, Dongdaqiao Nanlu, just north of Jianguomenwai Dajie, get to the T-intersection with Dongdaqiao (Gui You Shopping Center with McDonald's on the right), turn right, the Mexican Wave is on the right about 150 meters up the road.

Jingshan Park, Jan. 20, 2pm (Mexican Wave), 2:30pm (Jingshan Park).

Full Moon Hash (No beer required), Jan. 25. Cost: 20 yuan for the hash and drinks (water or beer) afterwards. If you stay for the meal, then the cost goes up to 50 yuan. **Tel:** 65063961 (The Mexican Wave).

## China Chess Club

Meets every two weeks at 2:30pm. A friendly gathering and players at all levels are welcome. **Where:** John Bull Pub, by the International Post Office. **Tel:** 13681464482 (Beatrice Fourmy).

## The Beijing Devils Rugby Club

You are invited to enjoy the local rugby scene in Beijing. Training, games and the usual ancillary entertainment. **Website:** www.beijingdevils.com or email Ethan Perk@hotmail.com

## Music



## Minority Music Concert - Naxi Ancient Music

The Naxi people, inheritors of the ancient Dongba Culture, live in the mountains of southwest China's Yunnan province. **Where:** Beijing Concert Hall. **When:** Jan. 25-26, 7:30pm. **Admission:**

50-280 yuan. **Tel:** 66057006, 65598281.

## Modern Classical Beijing Opera

China Beijing Opera Theater is the first class Beijing Opera performer and winner of the China Plum Blossom Prize, a prize of Beijing Opera. **Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, inside the National Library. **When:** Jan.



25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 40-220 yuan. **Tel:** 8 8 5 4 5 5 0 1, 68419220.

## Kind of Blue

The great jazz musician Miles Davis' CD has been released into Beijing. Solos by Davis, pianist Bill Evans and saxo-

phonist John Coltrane. Tracks include *So What*, *All Blue*, *Blue in Green*, *Freddie Freeloader* and *Flamenco Sketches*. **Where:** Xidan Book Store (西单图书大厦), Wangfujing Music Book Store (王府井音乐店), the fifth floor of Siter Shopping City in Jianguomen Street (赛特购物中心五层).

**Price:** 50 yuan

## One Concert, Three Styles

Folk music, Beijing Opera and string music, performed by China Conservatory of Music; Rendezvous, from China Traditional Opera Institute; and the Central Conservatory Girls String Quartet. Program includes Mendelssohn String Quartet. **Where:** Beijing Golden Sail Concert Hall, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Jan. 19, 6:30 pm, folk music; 8pm Beijing Opera; 9:30pm string music. **Ad-**

**mission:** 80 yuan for each part, you can come for one, two or all. **Tel:** 65289047.

**Wonderful Magical Experience-Taihe Golden Moment** Conductor: Mikhail Pletnev; piano, Li Yundi; By Russian National Orchestra. Feb. 3, Ros-



sini: Gazza Ladra Overture; Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1; Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5. Feb. 4, Tchaikovsky Suite No.1; Si-belius Symphony No. 2. **Where:** The Great Hall of the People, west side of Tian'anmen Square. **When:**

Feb. 3 & 4. **Admission:** 100-1,000 yuan. **Tel:** 85282509, 85282264.

## Music at Bars

Radiation Active Band, Schiller's 3, Jan. 18, 9pm, 65931078. Blues by Rhythm Dog, Jam House, Jan. 18, 9pm, 65063845. Swing Fish Band, Dirty Nellies Irish Pub, Jan. 19, 9pm, 65022808. Afanti, Jam House, Jan. 19, 9pm, 65063845. Chinese traditional music, San Wei Tea House, every Sat evening from 8:30pm to 10:30pm, 30 yuan; for reservations, call 66013204.

## The Godfather Movie Dinner

Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* screened with a special dinner and selected wines. **Where:** Kowloon Ballroom, The Kerry Center Hotel, Guanghualu. **When:** Jan. 21, 6:30pm. **Admission:** 488 yuan each. **Tel:** 65618833 ext. 63389.

## Chinese Songs Billboard of Channel V



Altogether over 30 singers from Chinese mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong. **Where:** Capital Gym. **When:** Jan. 25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 200-800 yuan. **Tel:** 68335552.

## Exhibitions



**Spring Festival Exhibition** at Red Gate Gallery Showcasing different art styles of Chinese contemporary artists. **Where:** Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen. **When:**

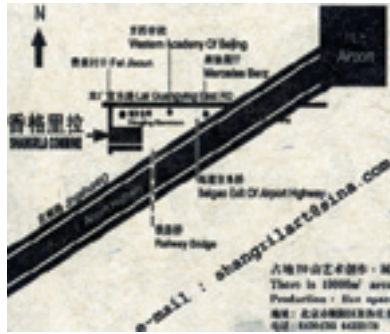
Jan. 22-March 3, 10am-5pm, Tue-Sun. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65251005.

## Touch Africa Vision &amp; Audition Exhibition of



African masks, sculptures, bead work, jewelry etc. Organized by Beijing Shangri-la Culture & Arts and Touch Africa. You'll meet with the medium of gods belong to

Africa in this space, discovering the arcane meaning of each tribal, tasting the temper of original culture. **Where:** Beijing Shangri-la Culture & Arts, Feijiacunkou. (Drive out the airport expressway, Jichanglu, turn to east(left) to Laiguangying Donglu, then turn left at the Feijiacunkou. **When:** Jan. 19-Feb 5, opening reception: Jan. 19, 2pm. **Admission:** Free. **Tel:** 64364785.



## Rummage Sale

The owner of the gallery has been enthusiastically collecting paintings to decorate his offices. Now he offers the result up for public appraisal. **Where:** Meedoo Gallery, Complex Bldg, Longcheng Garden, Changping County. **When:** till Jan 21, daily, 9am-9pm. **Tel:** 80796252.

## Art from the Embassies

The exhibition features 300 works of art from more than 40 countries across 5 continents. They are all collected and provided by embassies based in China. A definite multi-cultural mix! **Where:** National Museum of Chinese Revolution, east side of Tian'anmen Square. **When:** till Jan 28, daily, 8:30am-4:30pm. **Tel:** 65263355

## Modern Chinese Gold &amp; Silver Commemorative Coin Exhibition

Over 500 selected gold & silver commemorative coins issued since 1979. The exhibition highlights important historic affairs, famous figures, ancient scientific inventions, places of interest, religions and folk customs. **Where:** China Coin Museum, 22 Xijiaominxiang, west of Tian'anmen Square. **Tel:** 66053037.



**A Free Space to Share** Searching for hidden images, characters and messages in Yi Ling's paintings is part of the fun! The exhibition also includes some artists in their 30s who came to Beijing in search of opportunity. **Where:** Florence Gallery, 2 Dongsanhuan Beilu. **When:** till Jan 27, Tue-Sun, 10am-7pm. **Tel:** 64683665.

## Definitely Valuable

An exhibition of more than 50 Chinese classical artists including Qi Baishi, Li Keran and Fan Zeng, providing an insightful introduction to the very best of traditional Chinese art. **Where:** B36 Liulichang Xijie, Passage Gallery, Xuanwu District. **When:** till Feb 10, daily, 9am-6:30pm. **Tel:** 63034259.

## Old Beijing in the Late Qing Dynasty

Old photo show about people's daily life in the late Qing Dynasty and the early years of the Republic of China, provides an eye-opening view of old Beijing city. **Where:** Old Beijing Street, Xin Dong'an Market, Wangfujing. **When:** till March 31, 10am-5pm. **Tel:** 65276688.

## Horse Paintings Celebrate the Year of Horse

By Jia Haoyi, Hu Bo, Yang Gang and more. **Where:** Creation Gallery, Ritan-donglubeikou, Chaoyang District. **When:** Jan. 19-Feb. 1, 10am-7pm. Opening reception: Jan. 19, 3-6pm. **Tel:** 65067570.



## Movies

## Movies by Louis Malle

Atlantic City (), 1980, starring Burt Lancaster, Susan Sarandon. **Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee House (Box Cafe) & The Loft. **When:** Jan. 26, 7pm (Space for Imagination); Jan. 27, 3pm (The Loft). **Tel:** 62791280; 65065592, 65017501.

## The Flavor of Apple

A girl turns to her cyber boyfriend when facing depression in real life. Taiwan director Zhu Yanping. Pop stars Joey Yung and Chen Xiaodong. **Where:** Cinemas all over town **When:** Jan 18-Jan 31

## Italian Cultural Night

Movie is shown every Tuesday night. **Where:** Cultural Of-

fice, Italian Embassy, Sanlitun.

**When:** every Tuesday. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65322187.

## A Fatal Attack

A story about fighting against corruption in China. Directed by Yin Wenji. The movie costs 15 million yuan to produce. Cinemas around Beijing.



## Courses

## Early-stage Education for Children

Beijing Yewchung International School (BIS) offer "Mum and Me", a community activity for small kids and their mothers. Mothers and babies older than six months are invited to join classes offering bilingual education and cultivation of musical appreciation. Teachers from U.S., Australia and Britain. **Where:** Beijing Yewchung International School, Honglingjin Park, Chaoyang District. **Fee:** 30 yuan per

class. **Tel:** 85833731-36. **Email:** martinad@ycef.com (Martina Dewsnap).

## Le Leche League of Beijing

Information, encouragement and support for breast feeding mothers. They will meet every 4th Tuesday of each month. All pregnant women breast feeding mothers, and nursing babies are welcome to attend. **Where:** Beijing United Family Hospital, 2 Jiangtailu, 600 meters southeast of Holiday Inn Lido Hotel. **When:** 4th Tue. of every month, 2pm. **Tel:** 80796988.

## Dining Out

## Q Bar

The bar has reopened with an expanded upstairs section for drinking and playing pool. Downstairs remains the same. Features live country music by a local band. **Where:** Q Bar, Chaoyang Park West Gate, next to the teahouse, Chaoyang District. **When:** daily, 11am-2am. **Tel:** 65915050.

## No Name Bar

If you are not already a regular then please stay away. Management says you and your friends are not welcome at this watering hole where the elite hold their private little social gatherings. **Where:** 3 Qianhai Dongyuan, Karouji Restaurant, Dongcheng District. **When:** daily noon- till late. **Tel:** 64018541.

## Blue and White

Cheap, cafeteria-style Chinese food from Taiwan in a clean and cheery environment. The restaurant only opened last Dec., but already draws big crowds, especially at lunch time. Every dish under 15 yuan and the place is open all night long. **Where:** Blue and White, 69

Dongdan Beidajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** daily 24 hours. **Tel:** 65278964.

## California Dreams

Light, healthy and tasty Californian cuisine has become increasingly popular over the last ten years. Find out why at the Kerry Center's Coffee Garden, where Dutch O'Neal, a chef specializing in California-Pacific Rim cuisine and nominated as one of the Top 10 American Chefs will be making a guest appearance from next Tuesday. **Where:** Coffee Garden, Kerry Center, Guanghualu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Jan. 22-31. **Tel:** 65618833 ext. 40.

## L'auvergne in Beijing-French Culinary Promotion

Five talented chefs member of the association "Les Toques d'Auvergne" will present you the traditional cuisine from the central part of France. **Where:** Le Coffee Shop, the Novotel Peace Beijing, 3 Jinyu Hutong, Wangfujing. **When:** January 22-26. **Tel:** 65128833-6609

## Performances

## Carmen

By Central Opera House. **Where:** Tianqiao Theater, Beiweilu, Xuanwu District, bus 105, 106, 120. **When:** Feb. 1-3, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-500 yuan. **Tel:** 63030300.



## Dream White (Meng Bai)

Large-scale Original Dance Drama By Guangdong Experimental Modern Dance Troupe. **Where:** Tianqiao Theater, Beiweilu, Xuanwu District, bus 105, 106, 120. **When:** Feb. 5 & 6, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-600 yuan. **Tel:** 63030300.

## Hiking

## Jisi-Lianggen-Huanghuacheng

**Where:** near Huanghuacheng Great Wall, north of Beijing. **Walking time:** 3 hours. **Degree of difficulty:** 3 (i.e. reasonably easy).

**What to take and wear:** Day-pack, water, lunch, good hiking boots, hat, gloves, scarf, layered clothing, windbreaker.

**The route:** Start from Jisi village. The trail passes through the no longer inhabited village of Lianggen, then to Huanghuacheng.

BJ Hikers is open to everyone. To sign up, email bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk or call Huilin at 13701003694.

**Cost:** 100 yuan each, including hot drinks and snacks. **When:** Jan. 19, 8:30am at the Lido outside Starbucks, or 9am at Capital Paradise (front gate). Return 4pm.

## Longmenjian (Dragon Gate Ravine) - Dongling Mountain

Hike includes a moonlit night trek with loaded pack, walking along an iced over river, B.B.Q., and watching the sunrise on Dongling Mountain. **When:** Jan. 18, 7pm-Jan.20, 3pm. **Cost:** 300 yuan each, 160 yuan for membership. (Organized by PathFounding Club). **Tel:** 68731735.

## Info on Visas

## Canadian Embassy

**Where:** 19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District.

**Office time of Visa Department:** Mon.-Thur, 8am-11am. **Tel:** 65323031 (24 hours). **Website:** www.canada.org.cn

## Israel Embassy

**Where:** west office building of World Trade Center, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie.

**Visa Department:** office time: Mon.-Fri, 9am-12am. **Tel:** 65052970 (9am-12am, 1pm-5pm).

## American Embassy

**Where:** 3 Xiushui Beijie, Jianguomenwai.

**Visa Department:** Tel: 65325305 (Mon.-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm). **Website:** www.usembassy-china.org.cn

## Weather

**Saturday January 19** Overcast to clear Max: 3C. Min: -4C.

**Sunday January 20** Clear, windy Max: 2C. Min: -8C.

**Monday January 21** Clear Max: 4C. Min: -8C.

**Tuesday January 22** Clear Max: 5C. Min: -7C.

**Wednesday January 23** Clear to cloudy Max: 5C. Min: -7C.

**Thursday January 24** Clear to cloudy Max: 6C. Min: -6C.

**Friday January 25** Clear to cloudy Max: 4C. Min: -4C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902520.

By Priscilla / Lydia



*During the last several hundred years, members of various emperors' families built many magnificent mansions around the capital, as a means of showing off their status. Though many of these mansions are today occupied by government departments, many can still be visited, and are close enough together to be incorporated in a not too strenuous bicycle tour or two.*

By Jiang Zhong

During the Tang and Song dynasties, with the exception of the heir to the throne, all the royal princes were sent to the remote provinces as representatives of the Emperor. Their life in exile was generally quite comfortable, as the emperor would usually order the construction of a magnificent mansion in the respective provincial capital.

This system remained in place until 1369, when the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang, ordered the construction of a mansion in Beijing for Zhu Li, his fourth son. This was the first imperial mansion to be built in Beijing.

Since Ming Emperor Zhu Li restored the capital to Beijing in 1421, imperial family members of the Ming and Qing dynasties successively built their mansions in Beijing.

Most of the imperial mansions preserved in Beijing today were originally built for princes of the Qing Dynasty.

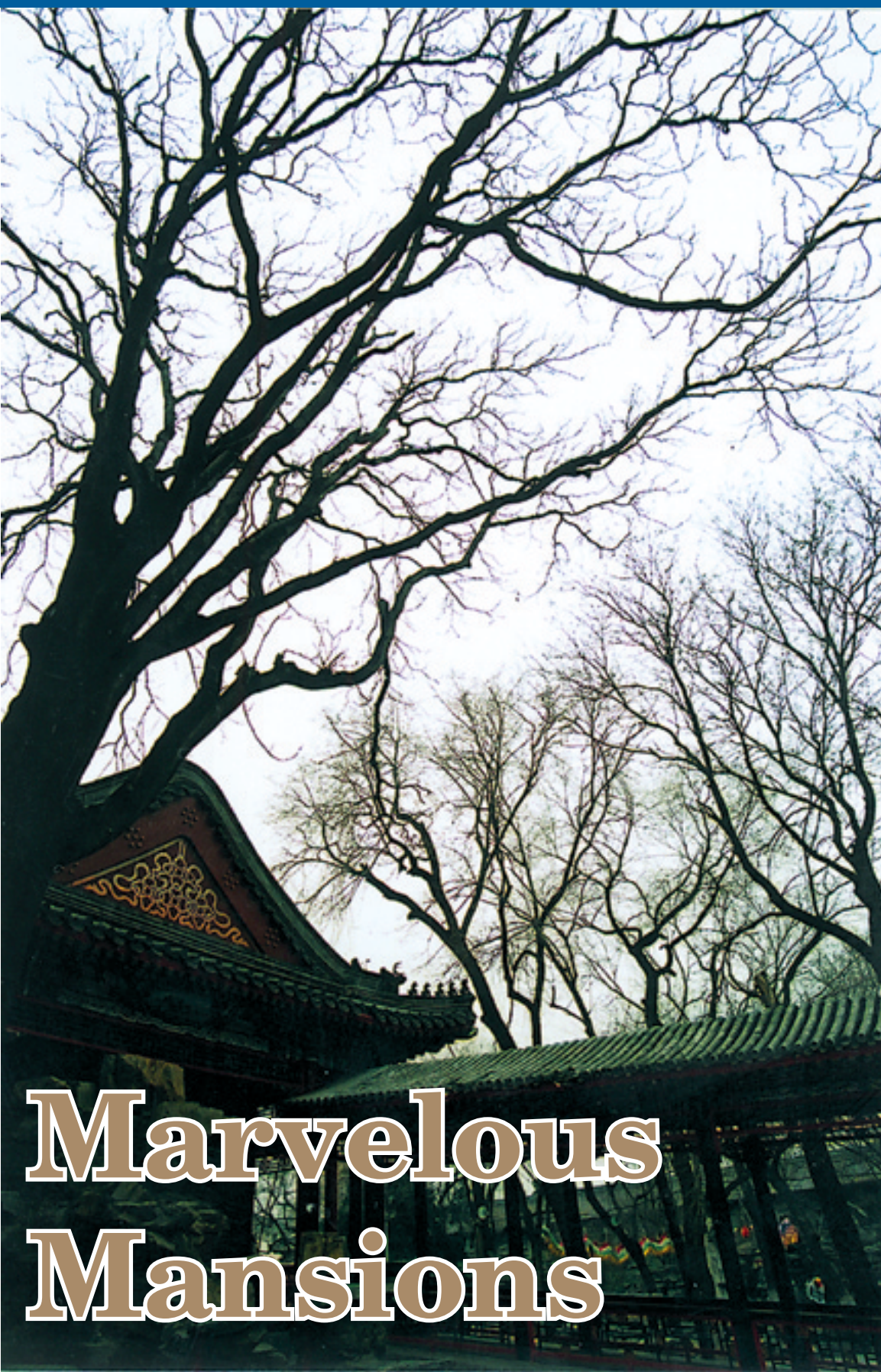
**Grand, but not too grand!**

In 1636, Emperor Chongde issued a decree restricting the scale of the imperial mansions. According to these detailed regulations, a standard mansion should feature one central room, two wing rooms, a two-story building and one inner door. The central room and the wing rooms could be built on an elevated platform not higher than two meters. Other rooms could also be built, but they had to be on ground level. Even the specifications of the roof tiles were stipulated in the regulations. However some princes flaunted the divine edict, constructing magnificent living quarters that in some cases were even grander than those of the emperor. Such disrespect toward the Son of Heaven was of course intolerable, and the regulations were beefed up with a number of supplementary clauses detailing severe punishments for those who refused to toe the line.

From then on, the more excessive of the nobles had no choice but to restrain their flamboyant tastes in order to meet the requirements of the regulations. To avoid trouble, some even designed their mansions to even more humble standards (relatively speaking!) than those stipulated. Only Prince Yu, built his mansion in exact accordance with the regulations, earning it the nickname the "Standard Mansion". Regardless of these constraints, the mansions still managed for the most part, to be quite magnificent.

**The location of the mansions**

There were a total of fourteen emperors of the Qing Dynasty. Some seventy of their descendants were conferred titles and granted the right to build mansions in the capital. However, only fifty or so actually did so. Some had no descendants to inherit the mansions, so they chose not to take advantage of the opportunity, and some were granted the right posthumously, and so were unavailable to take advantage of the opportunity!



# Marvelous Mansions

Photos by Zhuang Jian



The main buildings were built on an elevated platform.



The indoor stage at Prince Gong's mansion.



Winter transforms the garden into a frozen wonderland.

The imperial mansions were generally built in the inner city of old Beijing (largely in what is now known as Xicheng and Dongcheng districts). This was to take advantage of a law enacted in 1644 by the Qing government, under which only Manchu people were allowed to live in the inner city. Han Chinese had to live in the outer city. One exception was the mansion of Prince Limi, one of the sons of Emperor Kangxi, who built his mansion in Zheng Jia Zhuang Village, outside Deshengmen.

**The mansions of the Iron Hat**

Many of the Qing mansions still to be seen in Beijing today originally belonged to twelve families conferred with the title Tiemaowizang (Lord of the Iron Hat). According to the rather complex Qing hereditary system, descendants of court offi-

cials would be conferred with successively inferior titles to that of the original one. However in 1778, Emperor Qianlong bestowed eight families, who had made great contributions to the Qing's conquering of central China, with the title Lord of the Iron Hat. Unlike ordinary titles, these would be handed down from generation to generation unchanged. The mansions of Princes Li, Su, Zheng, Rui, Yu, Chengze, Keqin, Shuncheng are the residences of those eight families. Later the same title was conferred on Princes Yi, Qing, Chun and Gong.

**Day tour of the imperial mansions**

It is not possible to visit all the old imperial mansions in Beijing, even if you wanted to do so. Most of these complexes

now serve other functions, housing government departments or serving as residences for VIPs. Following are two suggested routes for bicycle tours taking in some of the old mansions.

**Xicheng District**

There are a number of well-preserved mansions in Xicheng District. We suggest you begin your tour at the Mansion of Prince Chun (醇) in Shishahai (什刹海) Park, better known as the former residence of Song Qingling, wife of Sun Yatsen and former deputy premier of China. This is one of the best-preserved imperial mansions in Beijing. On the opposite side of the lake, you will find the mansions of Princes Gong (恭) and Qing (庆).

The mansion of Prince Gong, in Liuyin (柳荫) street, was originally the residence of He Shen,

Cultural Tour

a high court official during the reign of Qianlong (1736-1796). He built his mansion after the style of the imperial palaces in the Forbidden City, in contravention of the imperial edict governing such constructions, and was subsequently executed for his impertinence. The mansion was later taken over by Prince Gong. It is worth spending an hour or so exploring this mansion, as there is much to see, such as the southern style landscaped gardens, the theatre and the western style decorations.

Prince Qing's mansion is 300 meters to the west of Prince Gong's. This extensive complex is now used by the military and visitors are not permitted. Don't even think about it!

Heading south along Xinjiekou Nandajie (新街口南大街), you will find three old mansions, two of which are occupied by government departments. The third, the mansion of Prince Yan (颜), has been restored and turned into a hotel. You might like to pause in your expedition here for a drink at the bar.

**Dongcheng District**

There are even more imperial mansions in Dongcheng District, including those of two Mongolian princes who were originally bestowed lands in their homeland. These two quadrangle-like mansions, at Guoxiang (国祥) and Chaodou (炒豆) Hutong respectively, are quite far from the others, located in the vicinity of Tian'anmen Square, and are best visited separately.

Start your tour in Zhengyilu (正义路), five hundred meters east of Tian'anmen Square, at the mansion of Prince Chun (溥). This mansion has been rebuilt several times, and you can find several western style buildings within. Next door is the Police Museum, a good place to learn about the evolution of the Public Security Bureau.

A little way east, in Dongjiaominxiang (东交民巷) is the mansion of Prince An (安), not a must for your tour, ride past it if you are pressed for time. To the north of this mansion is the former mansion of Prince Yu (豫), now occupied by Xiehe Hospital.

A little further northeast, Fangjiahutong (方家胡同), is the mansion of Prince Xun (循), with a large quadrangle and garden.

Head west along Neiwbujie (内务部街) to the mansion of Princess Shou'en (寿恩), which is very different in style to that of the others. Highly recommended is a visit to Prince Fu's (孚) mansion to the north, in Chaoyangmenneidajie (朝阳门内大街). There are many well-preserved buildings in this complex, and although some are occupied by government departments, you can still sneak inside for a quick look.

Between the Su (肃) and Fu mansions is a typical quadrangle house, the old residence of a court official of the late Qing Dynasty. Numerous brick carvings are scattered around this quadrangle.

These two districts feature many historical relics and old quadrangle houses. A leisurely trip through them will be an unforgettable experience.

Great Wall buffs

*Some Great Wall enthusiasts in Beijing enjoy nothing more than searching out the most rarely visited and remote sections of the wall they can find. Here we present for you some of their discoveries.*



## The Marble Great Wall

By Jiang Zhong

Most of the Great Wall is constructed of earth and custom built bricks. However in the wild mountains north of Qian'an, in Hebei Province, there is a section of Great Wall dating back to the Ming Dynasty that is made of marble.

The 1.5-kilometer section lies between Dazuizi (Big Mouth) and Jiangjunmao (General's Hat) mountains. There are four watchtowers in this section.

The wall here is ten meters high and five meters wide. Sand and earth were first piled up to form the main body, and this was then encased with huge marble slabs. The base, walls, battlements and watchtowers are all made of marble blocks and plates. Though badly damaged, most of the marble slabs remain intact, and if you brush the dirt away, the pattern of the marble is clearly visible.

The marble used to build the wall was all quarried locally, and remains of the ancient quarry can be seen, just a kilometer or so away. Tourists seldom visit this section of the Great Wall, so if you want to do a bit of quiet exploring, far from the maddening crowds, this is an ideal spot.

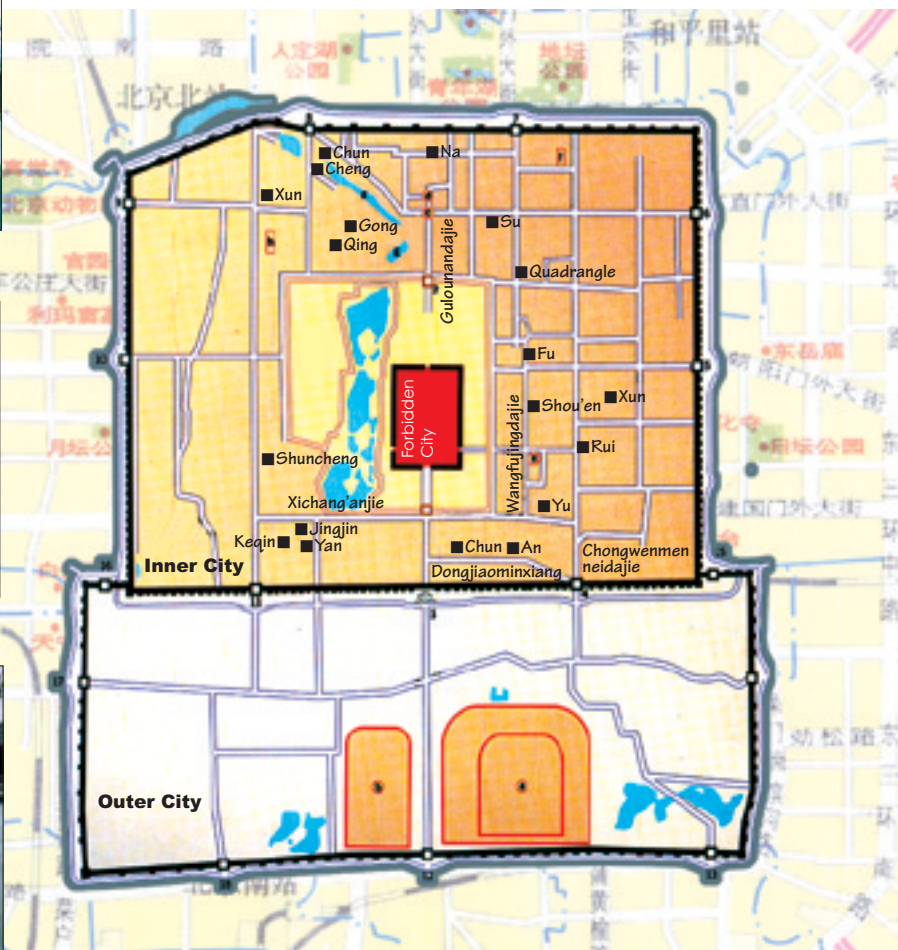
Not far from here is another section of Great Wall, called Baiyangyu, that is well preserved and also worth a visit. The wall is named after the valley it is located in. There are many historical relics scattered around this scenic spot. Different from its neighbor, only the base of this stretch of wall is made of marble, dark red blocks weighing some 500 kilograms each. Around this two-kilometer section, there are ten stone tablets on which are inscribed the complete history of its construction. Examples of nearly all the architectural forms used in other parts of the Great Wall can be found here. Where the Baiyang River flows under the wall, five arches were constructed, giving the Great Wall a different appearance.



The pattern of the marble is clearly visible. Xinhua Photo <http://thegreatwall.com.cn>

*If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing or within China, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.*

Contact: Jiang Zhong  
Tel: 65902520  
e-mail: [plan01@ynet.com](mailto:plan01@ynet.com)



Late Qing Dynasty map of Beijing with the inner and outer city clearly defined.